MomsRising NH Legislature Toolkit

Hi there – We're so glad you're here!

At MomsRising New Hampshire, we believe that democracy works best when families and communities are heard.

Every mom, parent, and caregiver deserves to feel confident having a voice in the decisions that shape our lives — and this toolkit was created to make that easier.

Scan the QR code to access the digital version of this toolkit!

What's Inside?

New Hampshire's legislative process can feel complicated, but it doesn't have to be. Inside, you'll find:

- Clear guides on how the NH Legislature works — who does what, when and where they meet, and how bills become laws.
- Step-by-step instructions for contacting your legislators, submitting testimony (in person or online), and tracking the issues that matter to your family.
- Helpful tips and accessibility info for visiting the State House, navigating public hearings, and showing up with confidence — whether online or in person.

Who We Are at MomsRising NH

MomsRising is a national grassroots organization of more than a million members, including thousands right here in the Granite State, working every day to make sure families can thrive.

Since 2011, the New Hampshire State MomsForce has been a force for powerful policy change, including historic investments in child care, paid family and medical leave, advances in maternal health and justice, Medicaid expansion, and protections for LGBTQ+ families. Together, our collective voice is a powerful force for change.

We take on the most pressing issues facing women, mothers, and families. On the ground, we build community, share our stories, and advocate for policies that strengthen economic security, health, racial and gender justice, and the care infrastructure families rely on. Together, we're making sure Granite State moms, caregivers, and families are heard and that their voices shape decisions at every level of government.

From the North Country to the Seacoast, New Hampshire moms and caregivers are rising for a future where every parent, caregiver, and family can care for their loved ones without financial strain, every child has access to opportunity, and every community is safe, inclusive, and strong.

Scan the QR code to learn more about MomsRising NH and how to get involved

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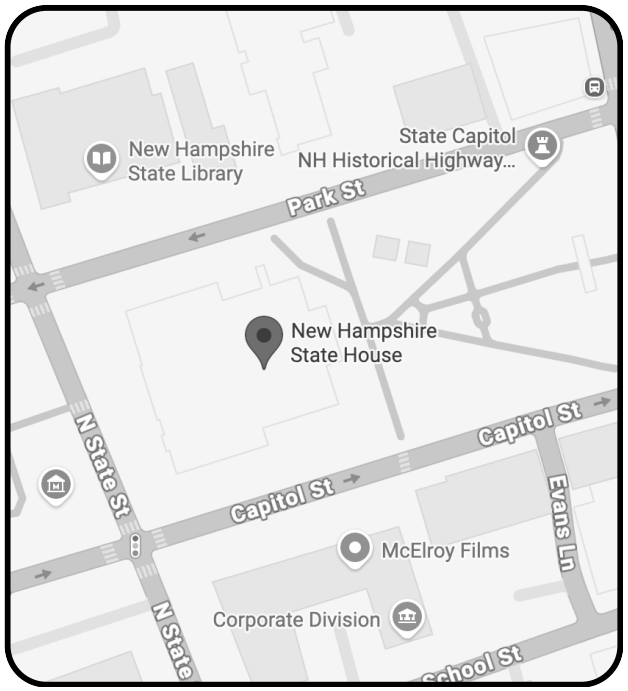
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Legislative Meeting Places: NH State House

NH State House

107 N Main St.
Concord, NH 03301





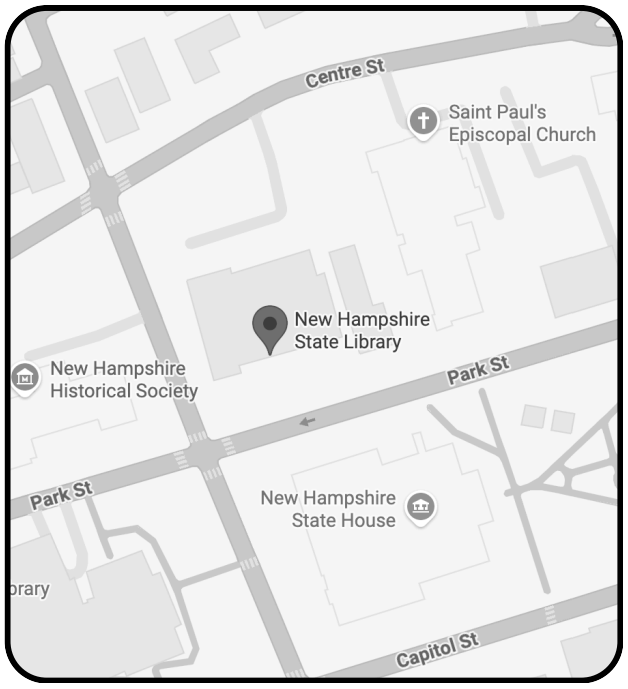
Located in Concord, **the New Hampshire State House** is the oldest U.S. state capitol in continuous use, built between 1816 and 1819. It houses the NH General Court, governor, and executive council. Notable for its golden dome and 400-member House of Representatives—the largest in the U.S.—it serves as the center of state government.

Request a tour of the NH State House! (For groups of 10 or more) For all others, please stop in to the Visitor's Center between 8:15am and 3:15pm to see if a docent is available. Self-guided tours are always available for individuals or groups less than 10.

Legislative Meeting Places: NH State Library

NH State Library
20 Park St.
Concord, NH 03301





The NH State Senate is holding legislative meetings in the NH State Library. The New Hampshire State Library in Concord, established in 1717, is the nation's oldest state library, housed in an 1895 granite building. It serves state government and the public, specializing in genealogy, NH history, and state documents, while also providing digital, audio, and large-print books.

Contact the NH State Library here
Phone: 603-271-2144

Parking in Concord

You can now pay for on-street and garage locations with the PayByPhone app. It's the easiest way to pay, and just requires your mobile phone.
➡️ *Download Here* ⬅️

Mostly Paid Parking weekdays 9am-7pm!

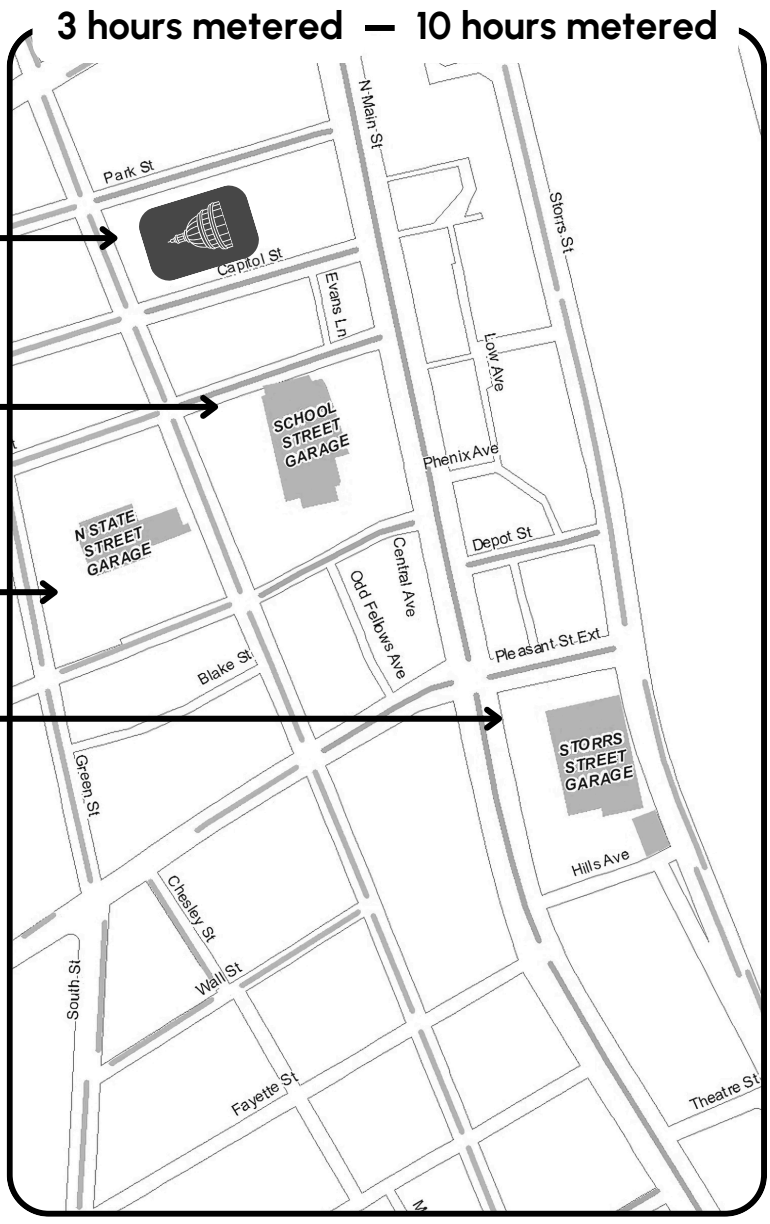
Concord NH Parking Map

State House
107 N. Main Street

School Street Garage,
17 School Street (.2 miles)

N. State Street Garage,
19 N. State Street (.3 miles)

Capital Commons Parking Garage
75 Storrs St, Concord, NH 03301 (.4 miles)





1 Granite Place
Concord, NH 03301





Background

In July 2025, the Legislative Office Building (LOB) closed for the purpose of replacing the HVAC system, and other needed maintenance.

The closure is expected to last through October 2026. All legislative business, staff and offices will be displaced from the LOB during this period.

1 Granite Place: Directions

From I-93 N or S

- Take exit 15W
- At the lights, take a right to head north on Route 3/ Bouton St.
- At the next set of lights, stay straight as the road turns into N. State St.
- At the next lights, take a left on to Penacook St.
- At the stop sign, take a right turn on to Rumford St.
- Granite Place is the next left turn.



Follow the main drive, you'll see a sign for South Building – take left fork.



Follow the "General Court" sign and continue left at the yellow arrow pointing left

1 Granite Place: Parking

All visitors can park in the parking area (Lots A & B) in front of the building. Parking is free.



Visitor spots are labeled and accessible parking is available*. There is additional parking available at the rear of the building with direct access to level 2







There are 12 van accessible parking spots in Lot A and 4 in Lot E. See next page –>

1 Granite Place: Parking

Visitors can also park in Lot E, which as 4 van accessible parking spots.



Lot E connects directly to the second floor.

1 Granite Place: Parking



Enter the building through the main entrance located under a long concrete awning through glass double doors.





there is an "automatic door open" button located on the right pillar before the doors

How to Navigate 1 Granite Place

Go through the double doors at the left and you will be at the hallway to the House Meeting rooms (right).

If you need to get to the 2nd floor, you can proceed through the Department of Justice entrance (first glass door on your right as you enter the large lobby).

From there you can either turn left to go to the bathrooms or turn right to enter an elevator.

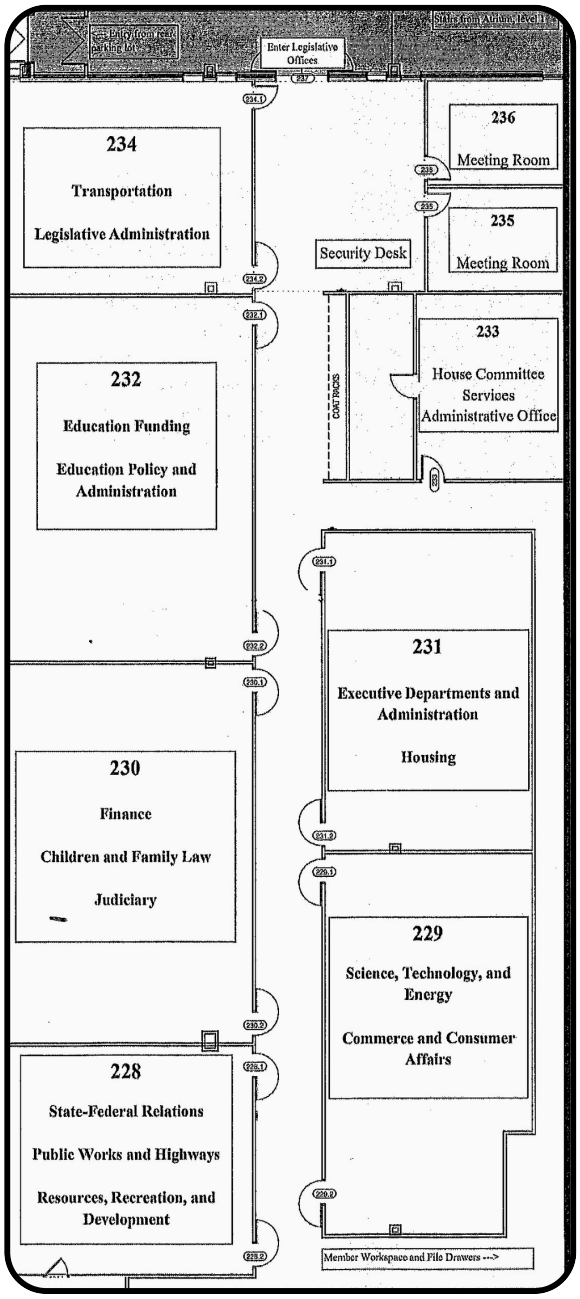


House meetings and hearings held at One Granite Place will take place on either the first or second floor of the facility.

1 Granite Place: Meeting Rooms

The second floor will host the following House Committees in the labeled rooms:

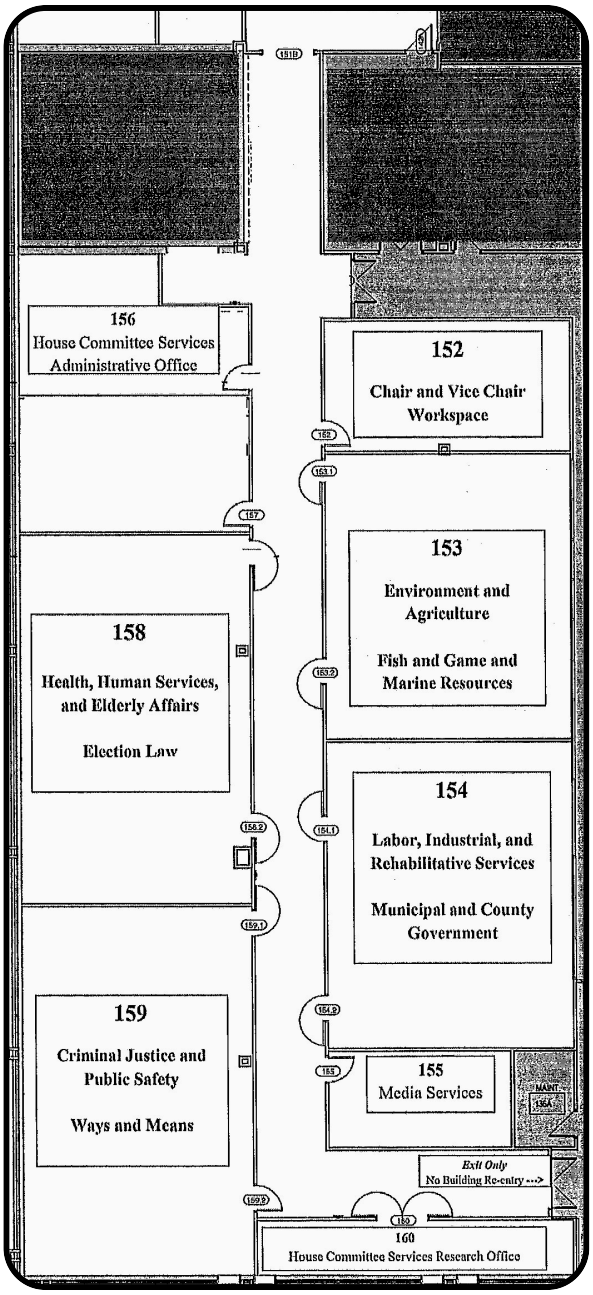
- Room 228 - Public Works and Highways; Resources, Recreation, and Development; & State-Federal Relations
- Room 229 - Commerce and Consumer Affairs & Science, Technology, and Energy
- Room 230 - Children and Family Law; Finance; & Judiciary
- Room 231 - Executive Departments and Agriculture & Housing
- Room 232 - Education Funding & Education Policy and Administration
- Room 234 · Legislative Administration & Transportation



1 Granite Place: Meeting Rooms

The first floor will host the following House Committees in the labeled rooms:

- Room 153 - Environment and Agriculture & Fish and Game and Marine Resources
- Room 154 - Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitative Services & Municipal and County Government
- Room 158 - Health, Human Services, and Elderly Affairs & Election Law
- Room 159 - Criminal Justice and Public Safety &Ways and Means



Building Accessibility

- Elevators & Restrooms:
  - Level 1: Accessible via the Department of Justice entrance in the main atrium.
  - Level 2: Accessible via the Department of Agriculture entrance in the main atrium.
- Entrances, hallways, and meeting spaces are ADA-compliant and wheelchair accessible.
- Accessible restrooms and elevator signage are clearly marked on each floor.
- Service animals are welcome.

Additional building and meeting information here.

Executive & Legislative Branches of NH Government



NH House of Representatives (400 Members)

New Hampshire's legislature is the largest state-legislative body in the US, and among the largest in the English-speaking world

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Governor

Can sign, veto or let a bill become law without signature

Legislative Branch

The NH Legislative Branch includes the NH Senate and the NH House of Representatives

Your voice and story can shape every step of the process.

Executive Branch

Unique to New Hampshire: Our Executive Council, a remnant of our colonial roots, shares power with the Governor, making NH's the weakest governorship in the nation.



NH Senate (24 Members)

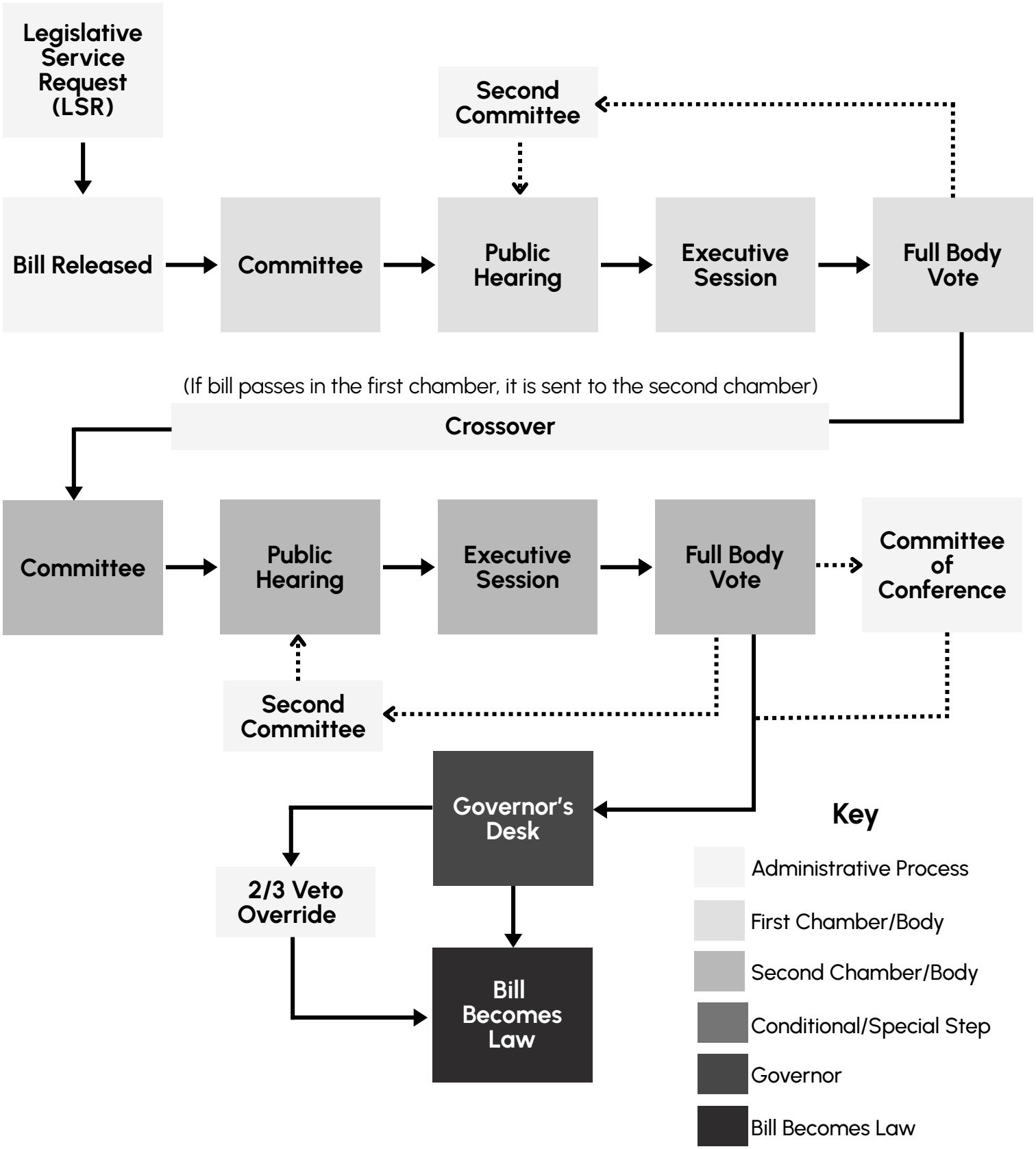
Lawmakers meet in Concord from January to June, when most public hearings take place, though some work continues year-round.



Executive Council (5 Members)

Approves contracts over $10k, appointments, nominations, bridges & roads

How a Bill Becomes a Law



How to Testify on a Proposed Bill (In-Person)

Fill out a pink card or sign in on the sign-up sheet (usually found on the table by the entrance to the hearing room, sometimes on the last desk of the committee) Here are some examples of what they look like:

Your name will be called based on the order the Chair of the Committee gets them in their hand (though sometimes they get shuffled, or state officials get called first). Don't panic!

You'll likely have between 2-3 minutes to speak (the Chair decides).

Bill # HB 2
Date May 6, 2025
Committee Senate Finance
Position
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Oppose
- ☒ Neutral

Time needed 3 mins
Copies of testimony? ☒
How many? 9
Name Alyssa Antman
Representing myself
Address
123 Granite Lane
Concord, NH 03301
Phone Number
(603) 123-4567

Speaking	Favor	Opposed	Name	Representing
X		X	Alyssa Antman	Myself

Find hearing schedules on the General Court Website!

Testimony Guide & Tips

Start by introducing yourself (your name, where you live, anything relevant). Many people thank the committee for their time in their introduction.

You'll have between 2 -3 minutes to share your story and how the proposed legislation would affect you/your community

Bringing copies of your testimony is not required, but if you want to leave your remarks behind with the committee, bring enough for the whole committee and the clerk!

Here's a quick & easy way to share your story in testimony. Think of the elements of your testimony as these "chunks:"

Context, Challenge, Outcome, Call to Action. Here's an example:

"Good afternoon, House Finance Committee. Thank you for your time today. My name is MacKenzie Nicholson, and I'm a mom from Nottingham. Last year, I found out I was pregnant with my first child. It was the best news. One of the first things I did was call child care providers nearby and put my name on the waitlist. My daughter was born 8 months ago, and I am still waiting to find a spot. While we wait, I've had to pull a mom McGuyver, cobbling together care from family, friends, and part-time care. This isn't working for anyone--not me, my employer, or my family. Our system is broken and families like mine are suffering. Families need affordable and accessible child care now."

Here are some examples of testimony dureing the 2025 budget process:

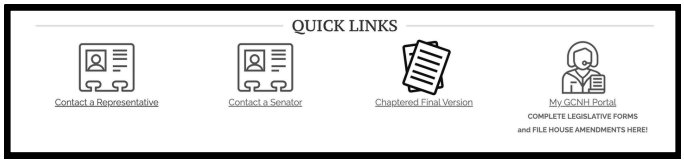
- **Carrie - Developmental Disability Services, Medicaid** (YouTube)
- **Shannon - Child Care Advisory Council** (YouTube)
- **Nancy - Education Funding** (YouTube)
- **MacKenzie's Remarks** (Google Doc)

Who is My New Hampshire Legislator?

And how do I reach out to them? Why does it matter?

Knowing who represents you helps you know who to reach out to. Legislators are busy and often do not have the bandwidth to know the ins and outs of every bill they have to vote on. They frequently rely on private citizens to educate them on how specific bills will impact people. Knowing how to find who represents you, is also a key factor when determining if they are working for you.

- **Step 1:** Go to The General Court of New Hampshire website at **gc.nh.gov**
- **Step 2:** Under the 'Quick Links' header, select 'Contact a Representative' or 'Contact a Senator.'

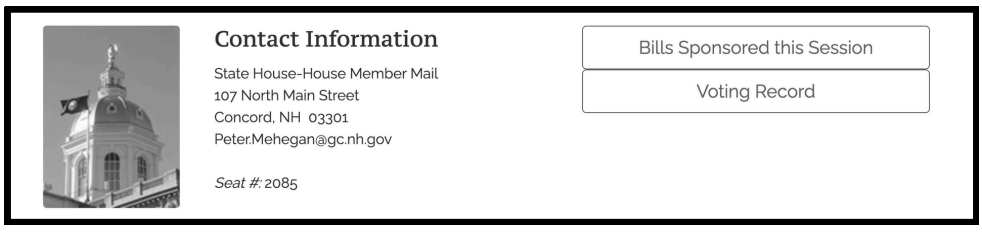


https://gc.nh.gov

- **Step 3:** Use the drop down menu to select your town.



- **Step 4:** On the 'Discover a Town or City's Representative Page, you'll see a list of State Representative(s) and the State Senator for your town.
    - To find a lawmaker's contact information, see their voting history, and bills they have sponsored, click on the legislator's name. Researching how they vote and what bills they choose to sponsor will help you determine if your legislator is working for you!



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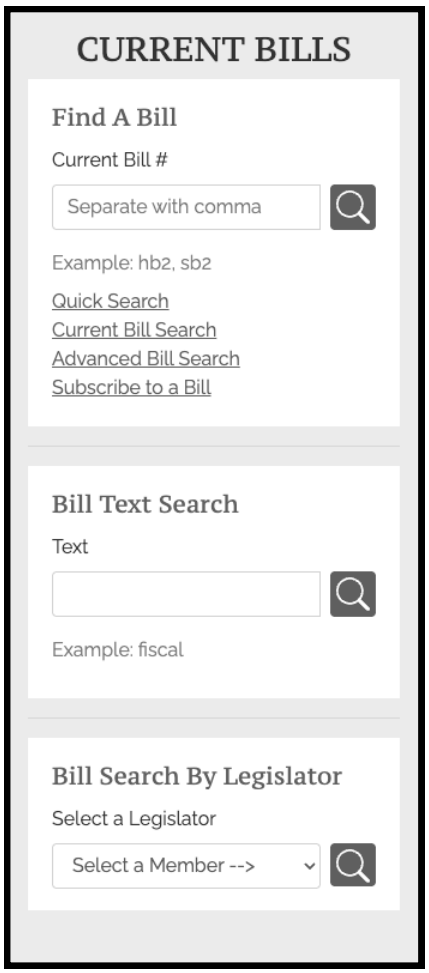
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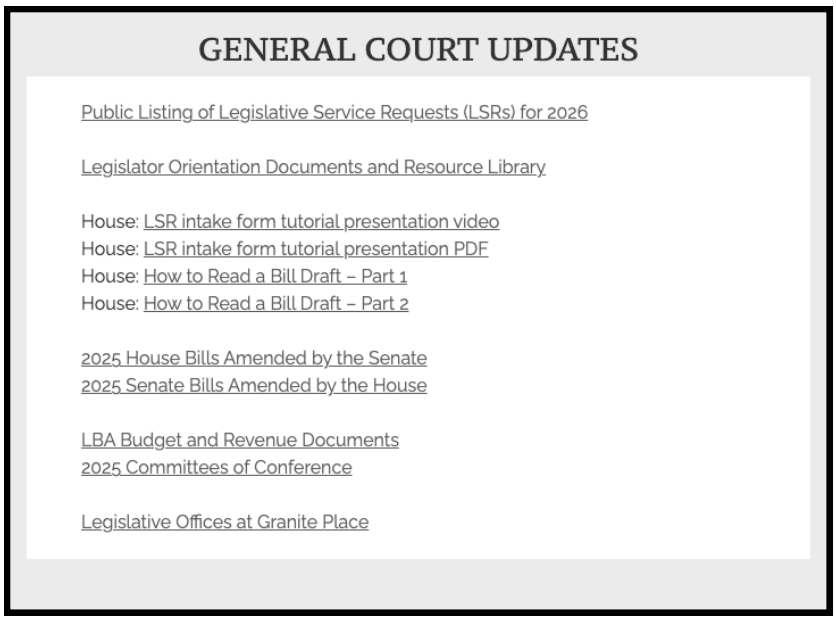
https://gc.nh.gov

How Do I Look At New Hampshire Bills?

The General Court website is home of all things legislative branch, including streaming links for the House and Senate hearings, meeting schedules, lawmaker contact information and information about past, present and upcoming legislation.

- **Step 1:** Go to The General Court Court of New Hampshire website at **gc.nh.gov**
- **Step 2:** Use the 'Current Bills' section for bills for the current year (2025)
- **Step 3:** For next year's bill proposals (2026) click **'Public Listing of Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) for 2026)'**. These bills will eventually get bill numbers and bill text and then will move to the current bill section in 2026.



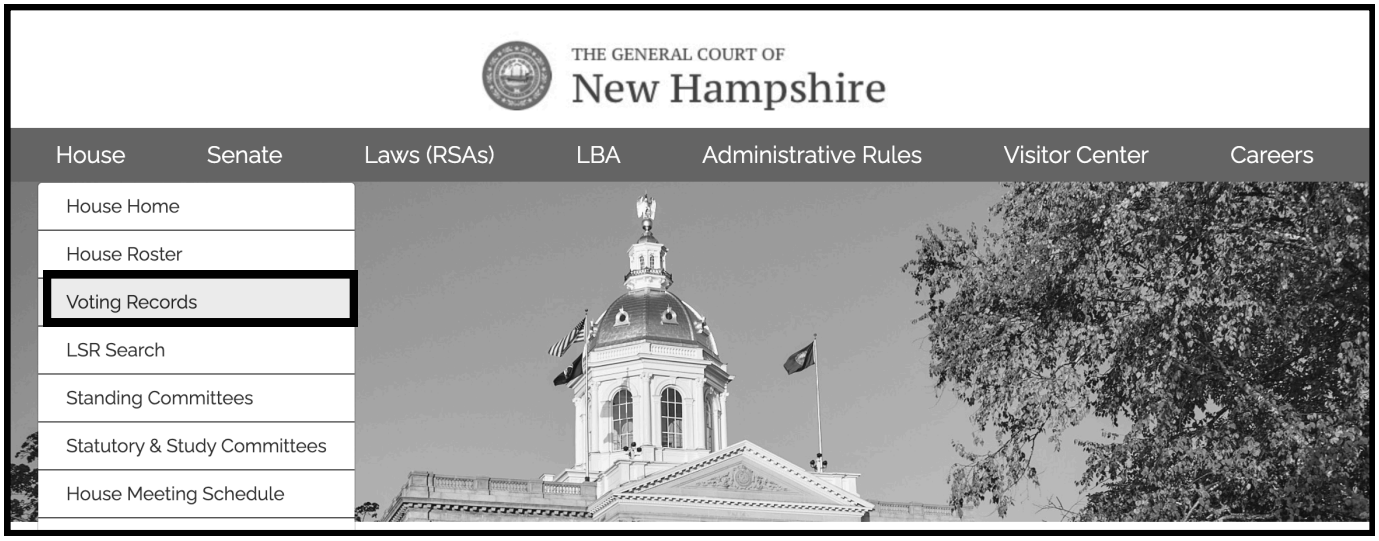


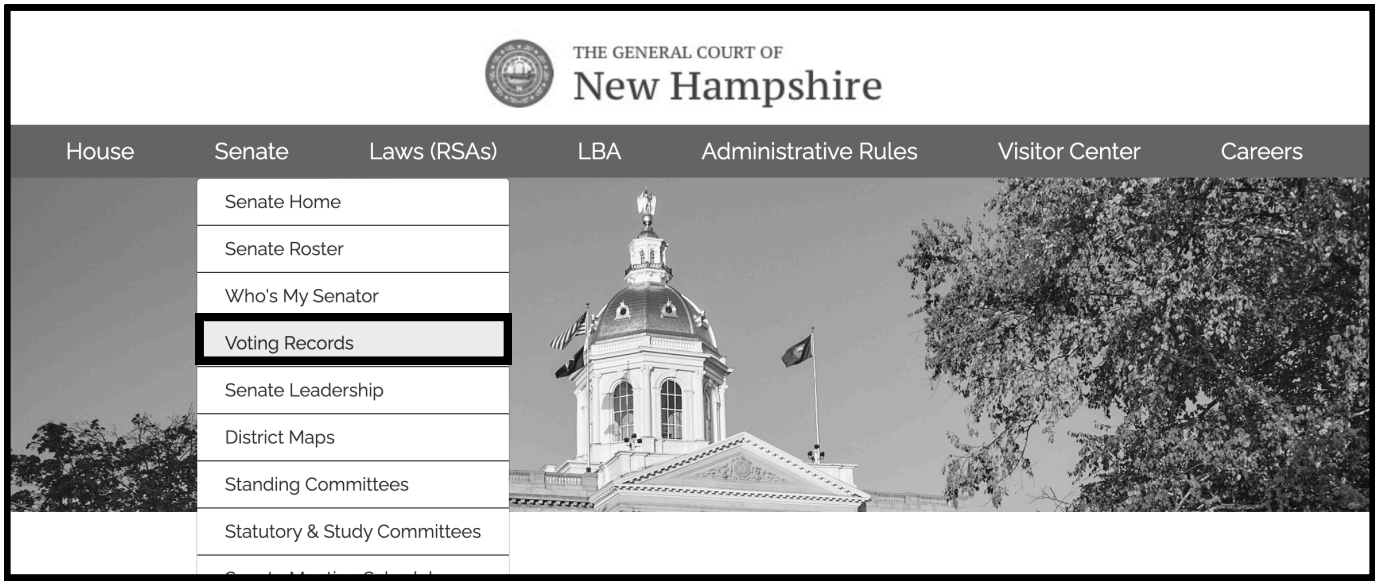
https://gc.nh.gov

How Do I Look at Voting Records?

- **Step 1:** Go to The General Court Court of New Hampshire website at **gc.nh.gov**
- **Step 2:** Hover over "House" or "Senate" on the homepage to activate the drop down menu. Click to **start a new search.**
- **Step 3:** Click on "Voting Records" for either drop down, which will bring you to the voting records page.

https://gc.nh.gov



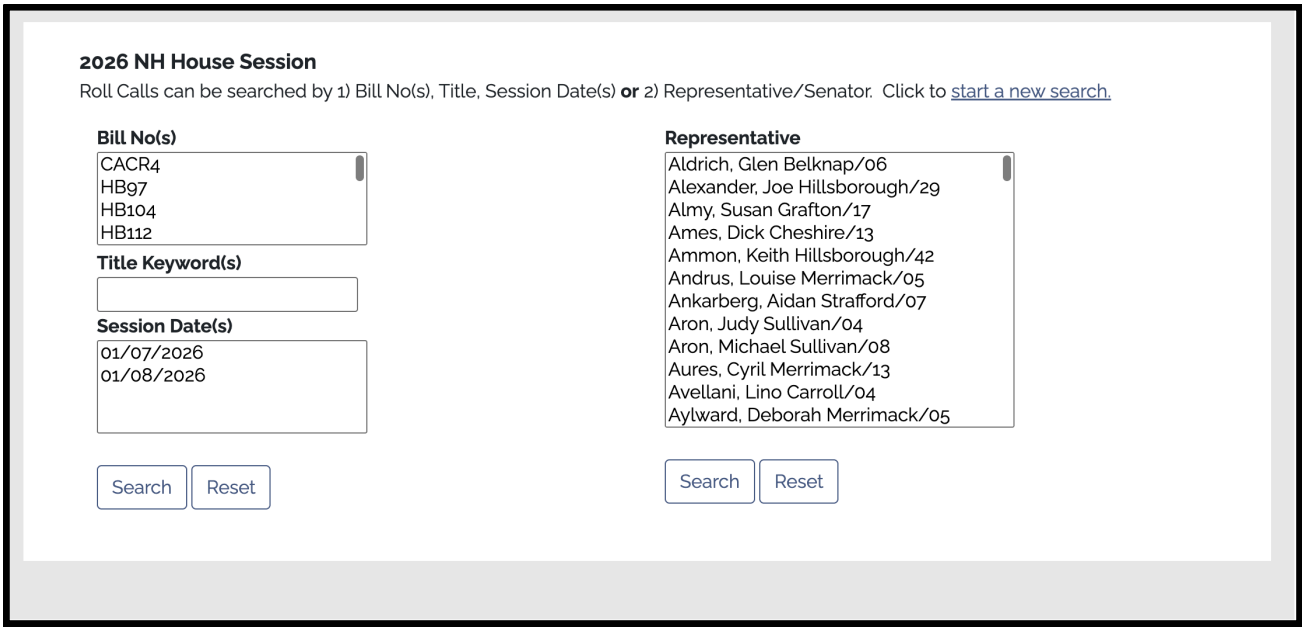


How Do I Look at Voting Records?

- **Step 4:** Click on the respective "NH House" or "NH Senate" Session Year for the bill you are looking for.



- **Step 5:** Completing Step 4 will bring you to the coresponding's NH House Session per year. Roll Calls can be searched by **1) Bill No(s), Title, Session Date(s) or 2) Representative/Senator.**



How Do I Look at Voting Records?

2026 Roll Call Voting
Click to start a new search.

Date of Vote	Vote #	Bill No.	Bill Title	Question Motion	Yeas	Nays	Votes
01/08/2026	39	HB155	reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax.	OTPA	189	165	View

Top | New Search

2026 Roll Call Voting

- The legislative session year (2026)
- That this is a recorded vote, meaning every representative's vote is on the record

Date of Vote:

- The date the House took the vote on this bill.
- Ex: 📅 01/08/2026

Vote #:

- This is the internal roll call number for that specific vote on that day.
- It helps legislators and staff reference the vote in official records.
- Ex: 🔢 39

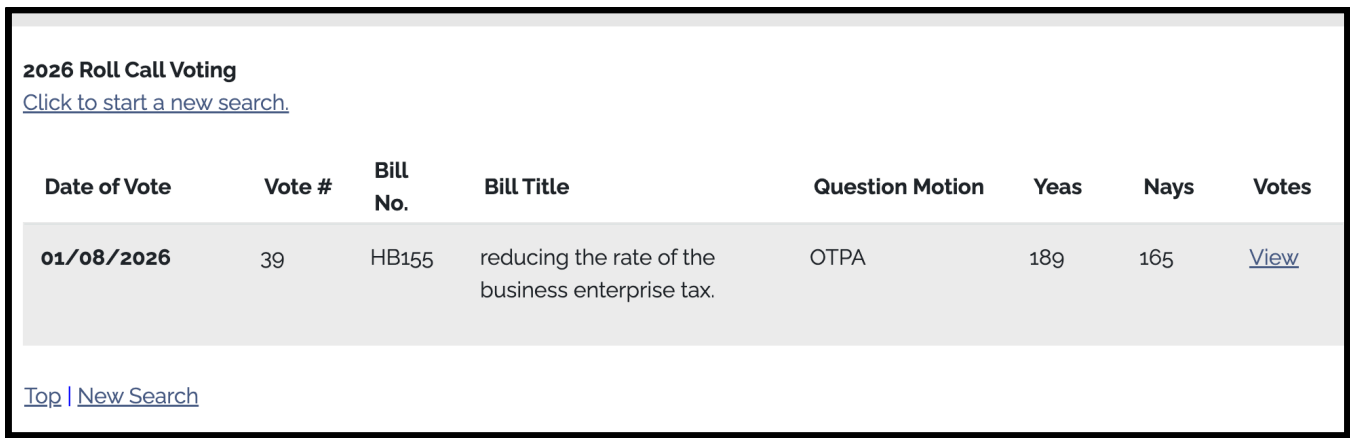
Bill No.:

- This is the bill number being voted on.
- "HB" means House Bill. "SB" means Senate Bill.
- Ex.: 📄 HB 155

Bill Title:

- This is the official title or short description of what the bill does.
- Ex.: 📝 "reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax."

How Do I Look at Voting Records?



2026 Roll Call Voting

Click to start a new search.

Date of Vote	Vote #	Bill No.	Bill Title	Question Motion	Yeas	Nays	Votes
01/08/2026	39	HB155	reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax.	OTPA	189	165	View

Top | New Search

Question Motion

- This stands for Ought to Pass Amended.
- In plain language:
  - The House voted on whether the bill should pass with changes (amendments).
  - Other common motions you might see include:
    - OTP – Ought to Pass
    - ITL – Inexpedient to Legislate (kill the bill)
- Ex.: ❓ OTPA

Yeas

- The number of representatives who voted YES on the motion.
- Ex.: ✅ 189

Nays

- The number of representatives who voted NO on the motion.
- Ex.: ❌ 165

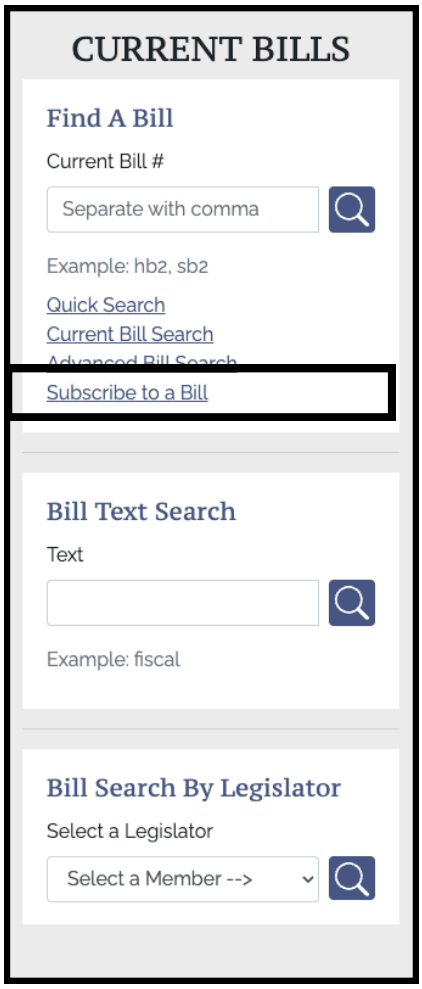
Votes (View)

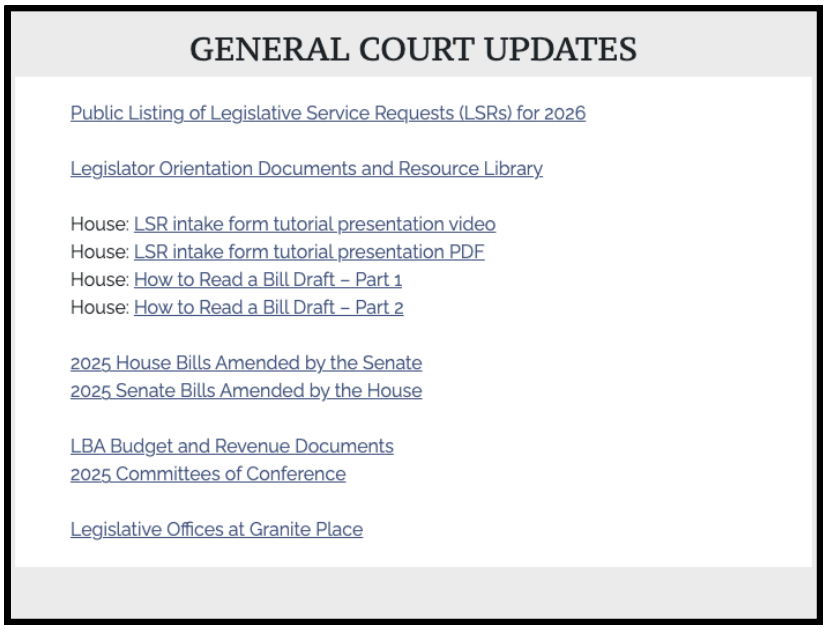
- Clicking this link shows:
  - A full list of every representative
  - How each person voted (Yea or Nay)
  - This is where you can see how individual lawmakers voted.

How Do I Subscribe to Bills?

- **Step 1:** Go to The General Court Court of New Hampshire website at **gc.nh.gov**

- **Step 2:** Use the '**Subscribe to a Bill**' section for bills for the current year (2026)



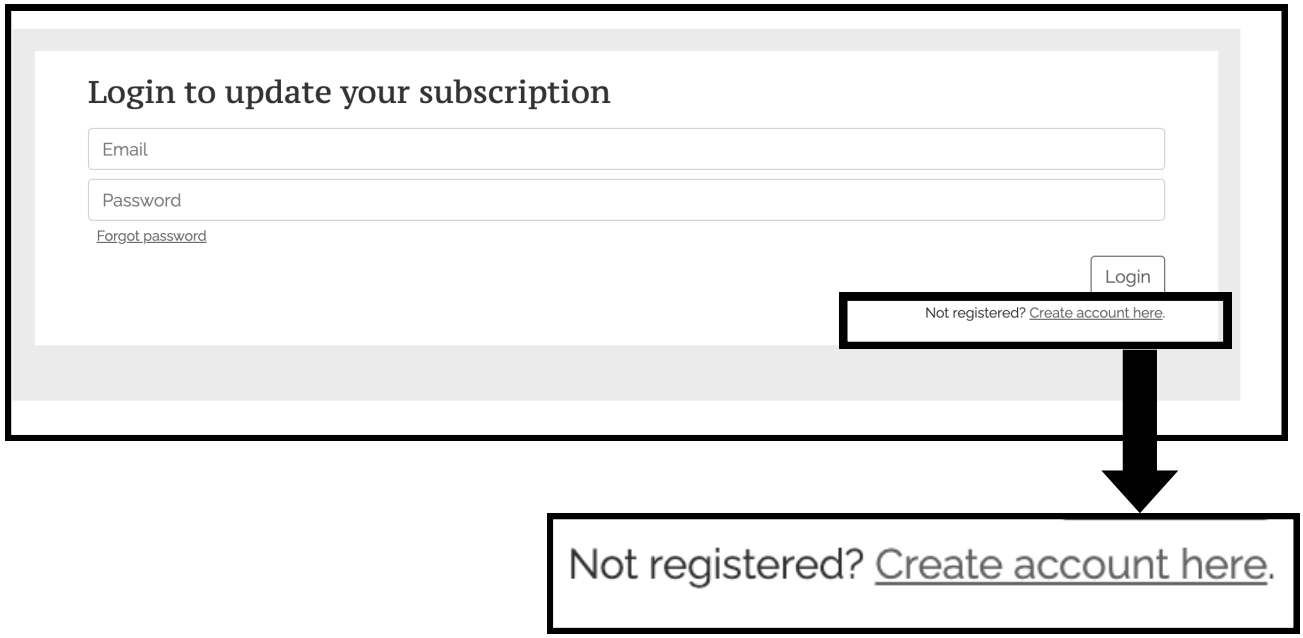


https://gc.nh.gov

How Do I Subscribe to Bills?

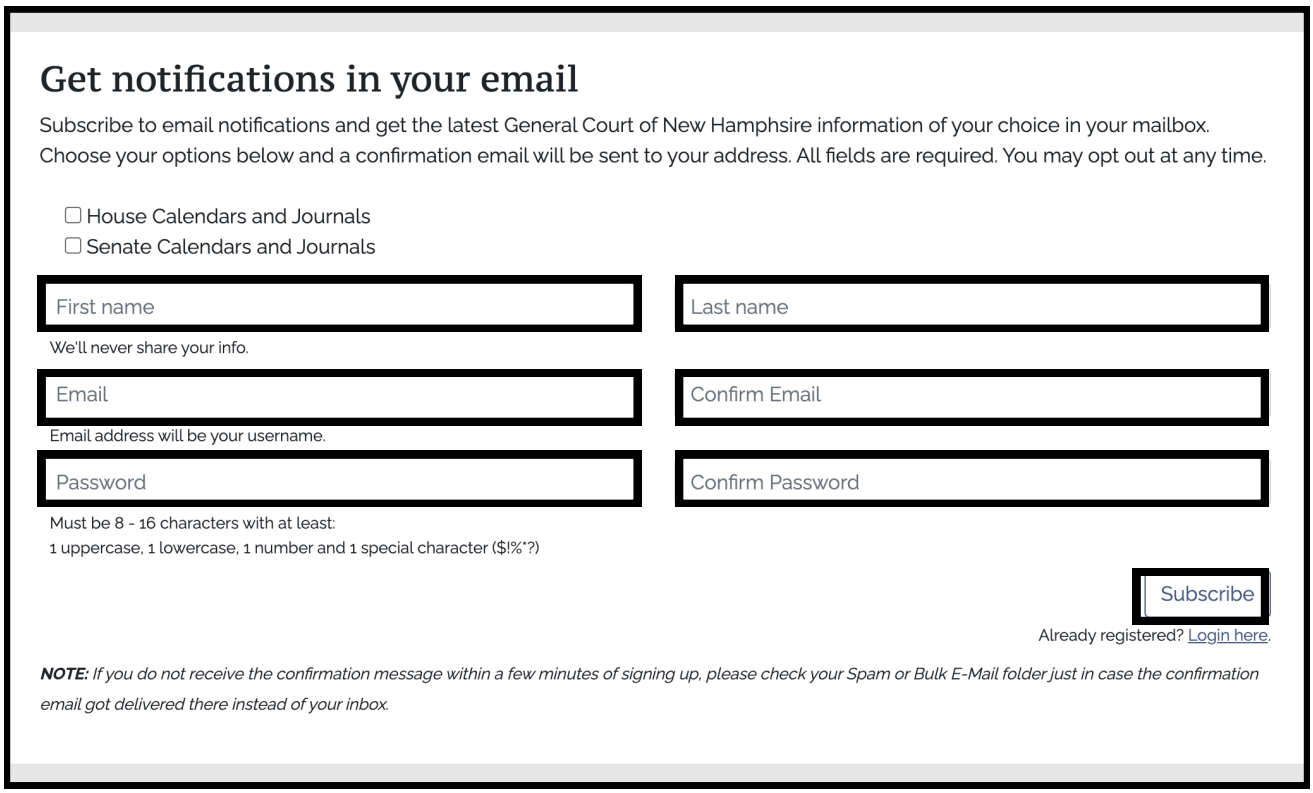
- **Step 3:** If you have an account, login using your email and password. If you do not have an account, click the "Create account here." link below the "Login" button.

- **Step 4:** Use the 'Subscribe to a Bill' section for bills for the current year (2025)



How Do I Subscribe to Bills?

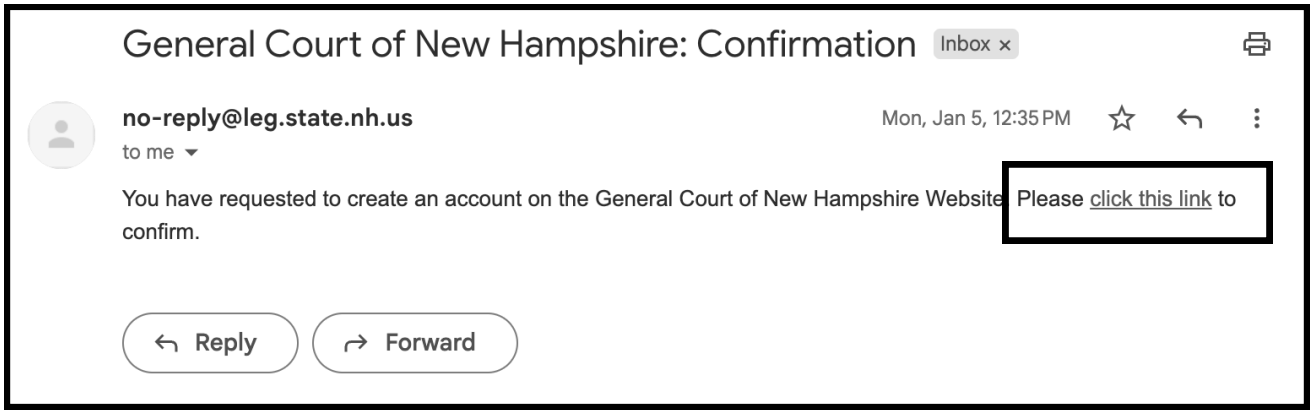
- **Step 5:** Enter your First name, Last name, Email, Confirm your Email, Password, and Confirm your Password then click the 'Subscribe' button. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address you entered.



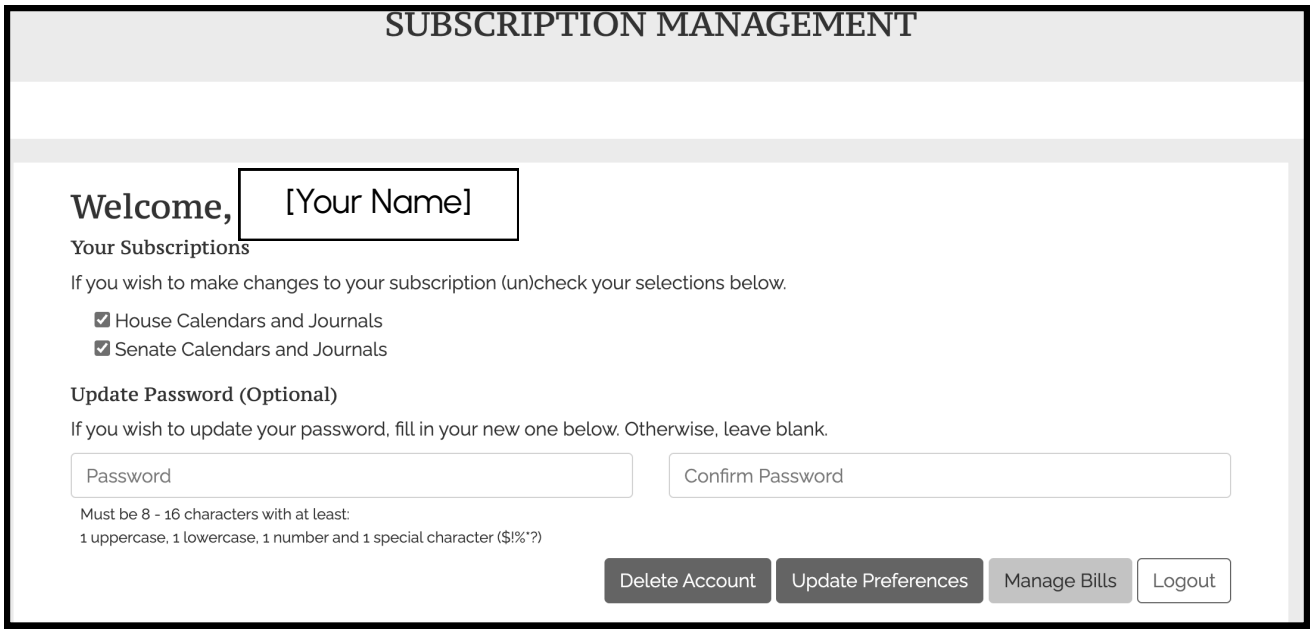
- Toggle House/Senate Calendars and Journals button to subscribe to the House/Senate Calendar and Journal
- All fields are required.
- You may opt out at any time.
- Your email address will be your username
- Password must be 8-16 characters with at least:
  - 1 uppercase, 1 lowercase, and 1 special character ($!%*?)
- NOTE: *If you do not receive the confirmation message within a few minutes of signing up, please check your Spam or Bulk E-Mail folder just in case the confirmation email got delivered there instead of your inbox.*

How Do I Subscribe to Bills?

- **Step 6:** Go to your inbox in the email account you used to sign up with. There will be an email from "no-reply@leg.state.nh.us" with the subject "General Court of New Hampshire Confirmation." Click on the link in the email to confirm your account.

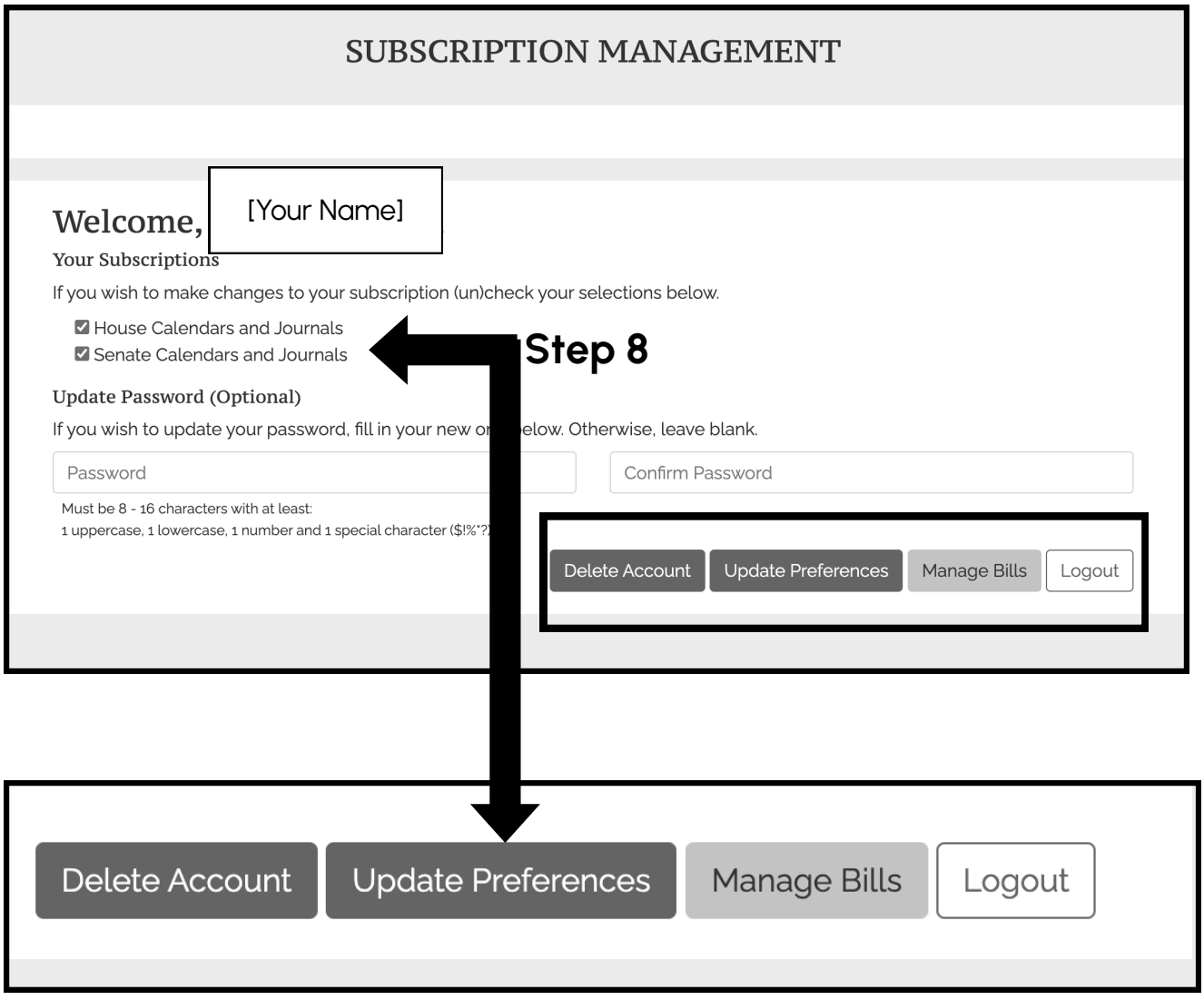


- **Step 7:** The link will take you to the "Subscription Management" page. If the link takes you back to the login screen, use your email (account name) and password to login.



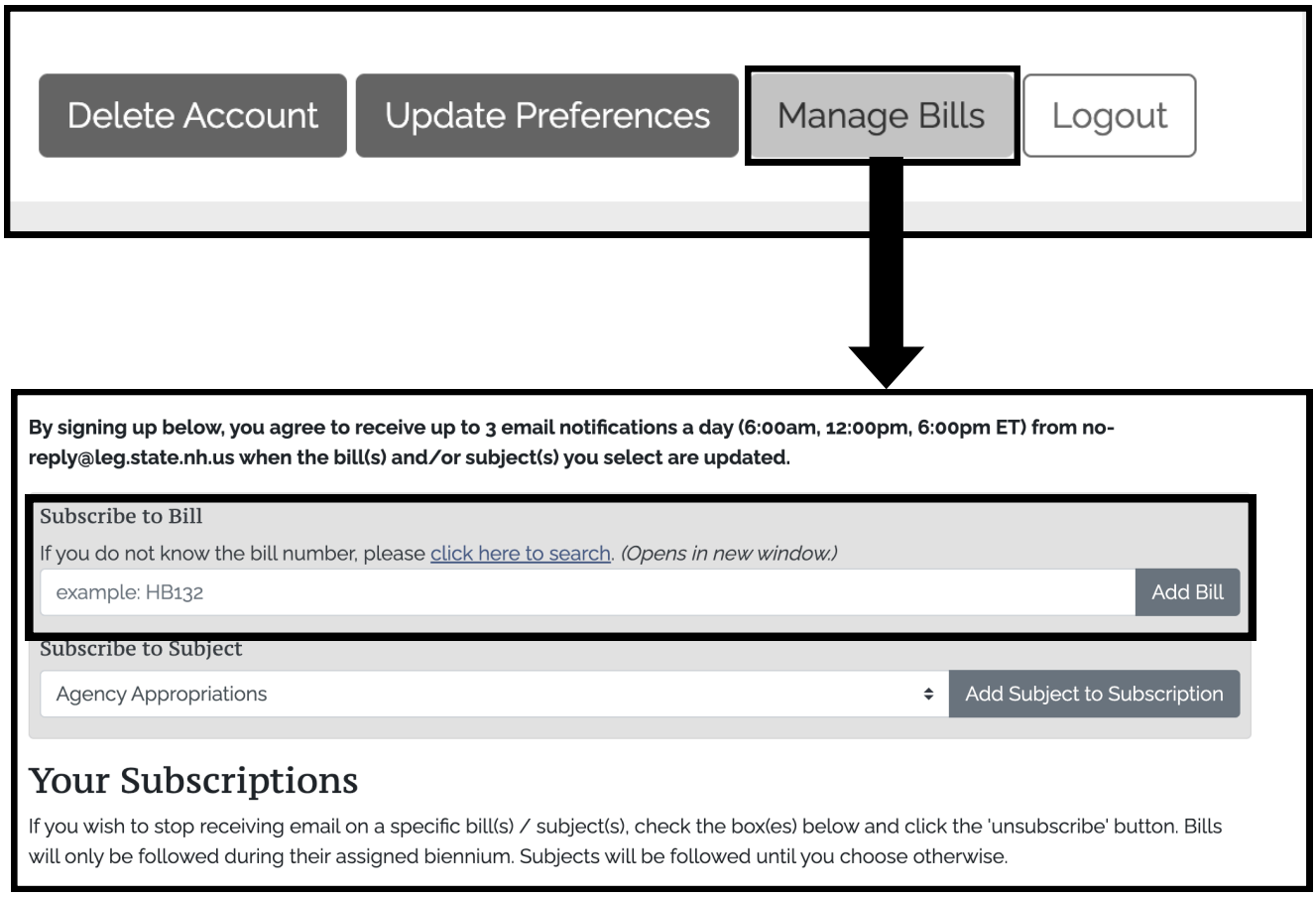
How Do I Subscribe to Bills?

- **Step 8:** On the 'Subscription Management' page, you will have several options. If you'd like to subscribe to House Calendars and Journals and/or Senate Calendars and Journals, you can check the box for each corresponding option. Click "Update Preferences" to save.



How Do I Subscribe to Bills?

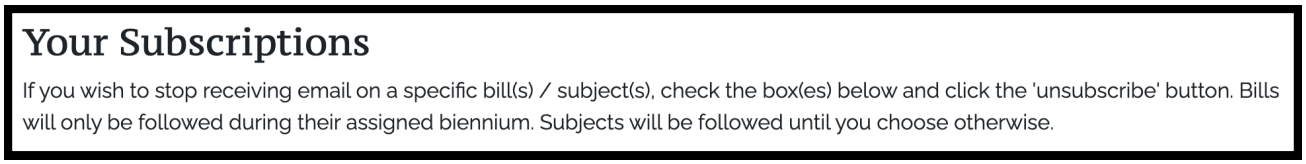
- **Step 9:** To manage bills, including subscribing to new bills and unsubscribing to bills you no longer want to follow, click "Manage Bills"



- **Step 10:** Type the bill number you want to subscribe in the field beginning with HB (House Bill) or SB (Senate Bill)(ex. HB123.)
  - Click Add Bill
    - *By signing up below, you agree to receive up to 3 email notifications a day (6:00am, 12:00pm, 6:00pm ET) from no-reply@leg.state.nh.us when the bill(s) and/or subject(s) you select are updated.*
- Unsure the bill number? **Search here:**

How Do I Subscribe to Bills?

- **Step 11:** Bills you have added will populate under the "Your Subscriptions" header.



If you wish to stop receiving email on a specific bill(s) / subject(s), check the box(es) below and click the 'unsubscribe' button. Bills will only be followed during their assigned biennium. Subjects will be followed until you choose otherwise.



How to Talk to Your Legislator

They're people too! Here's a sample email script you can use when reaching out to your legislator:

> **Hi [Title] [Last Name],**
>
> **My name is [Name] and I live in [Town/City]. I'm a constituent of yours and a [mom/parent/caregiver/educator/role].**
>
> **I'm contacting you because [issue/problem]. This matters because [why it matters to you and why it should matter to them].**
>
> **I'm asking you to [take an action] by [this date or by doing this].**
>
> **Thank you for your time and service to our community,**
>
> **Sincerely,**
> **[Your Name]**
> **[Town/City], NH**

More about our stories...

Stories typically have a beginning, middle and end. Sharing our personal stories to effect change have a similar formula. We share the problem, identify a need or solution, and end with a call to action. Don't be surprised if you discover you have multiple stories. Storytelling can feel overwhelming at first, but remember; You're the expert of your experience!

Problem: Define the Problem.
I had to quit my job because we couldn't find child care we could afford. Without my income, my family is struggling to make ends meet.

Solution: Outline your broad vision for a solution.
Quality, affordable child care for all of us would boost kids, families, businesses and the economy.

Action: Let the reader, viewer, or listener know what they can do to advance the cause.
I hope you will join me in calling on New Hampshire lawmakers to invest in solutions to our state's child care crisis.

How Do I Look at Voting Records?

Complete Step 3. Select Bill by selecting the correct field for each drop down:



for the "I am:*" drop down, please select "A Member of the Public"

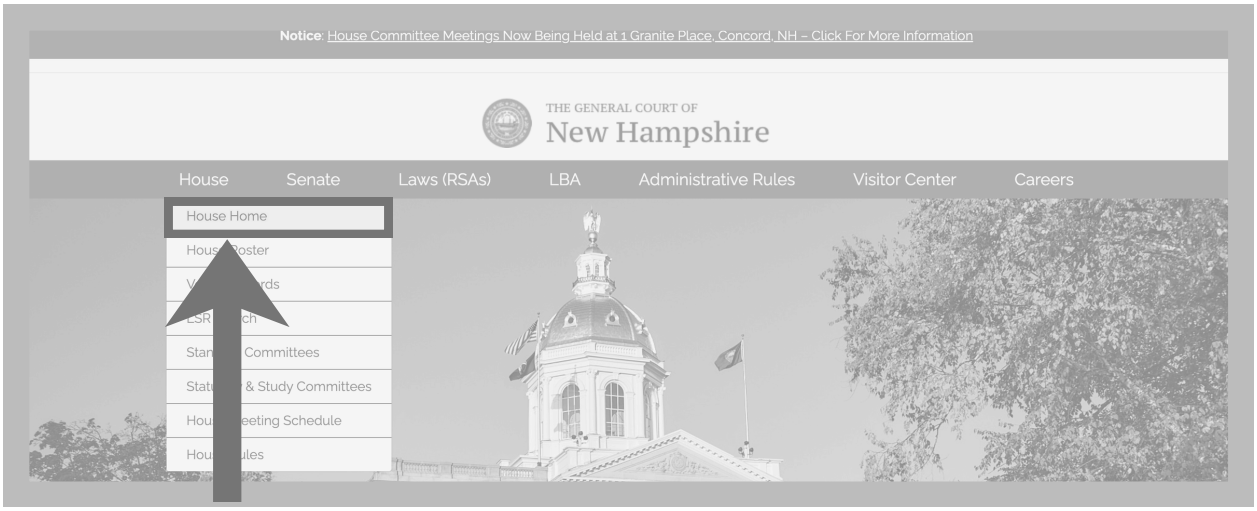


After selecting your options for the prior fields, the "I'm Representing" field will automatically populate "Myself"

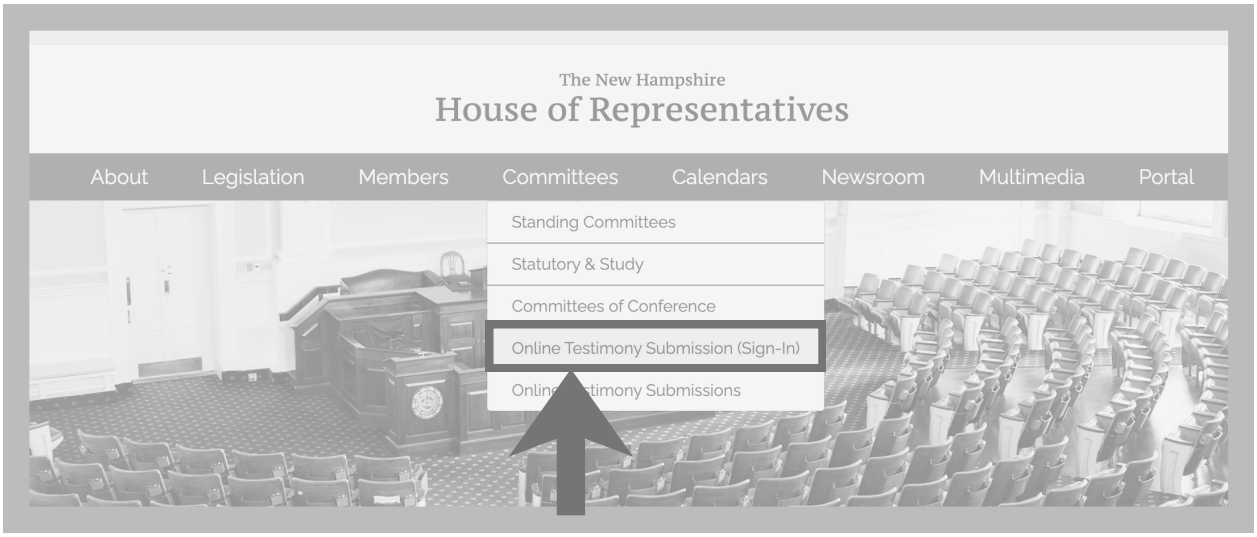


How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH House)

Go to the General Court Website homepage



Hover your mouse over "House" on the homepage and click "House Home" in the drop down to bring you to the NH House of Representative's site



Hover over "Committees" to access the drop down menu, where you will select "Online Testimony Submission (Sign-In)"

How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH House)

On the House of Representatives - Online Testimony Submission page, complete Step 1. Personal Information by filling in your:

First Name

Last Name

Town/City

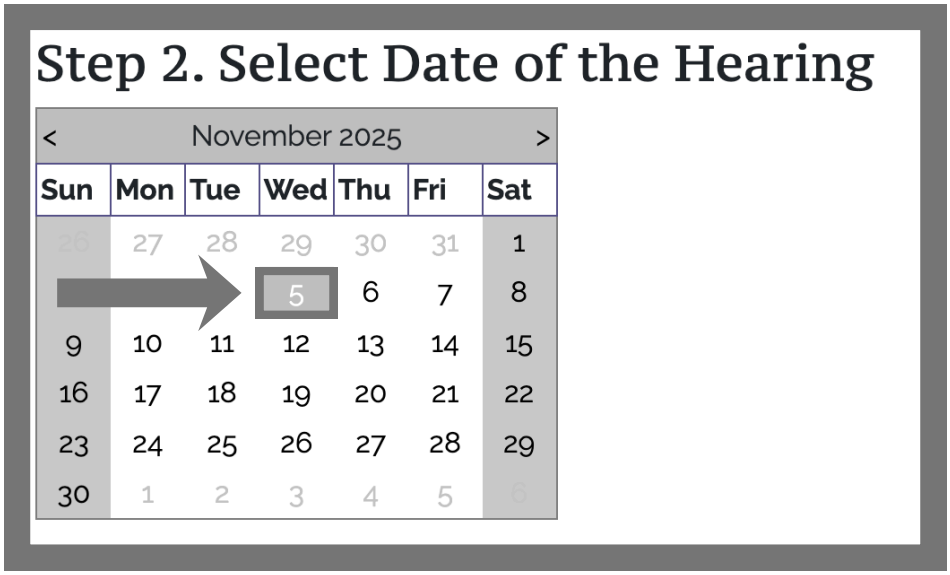
State

Email



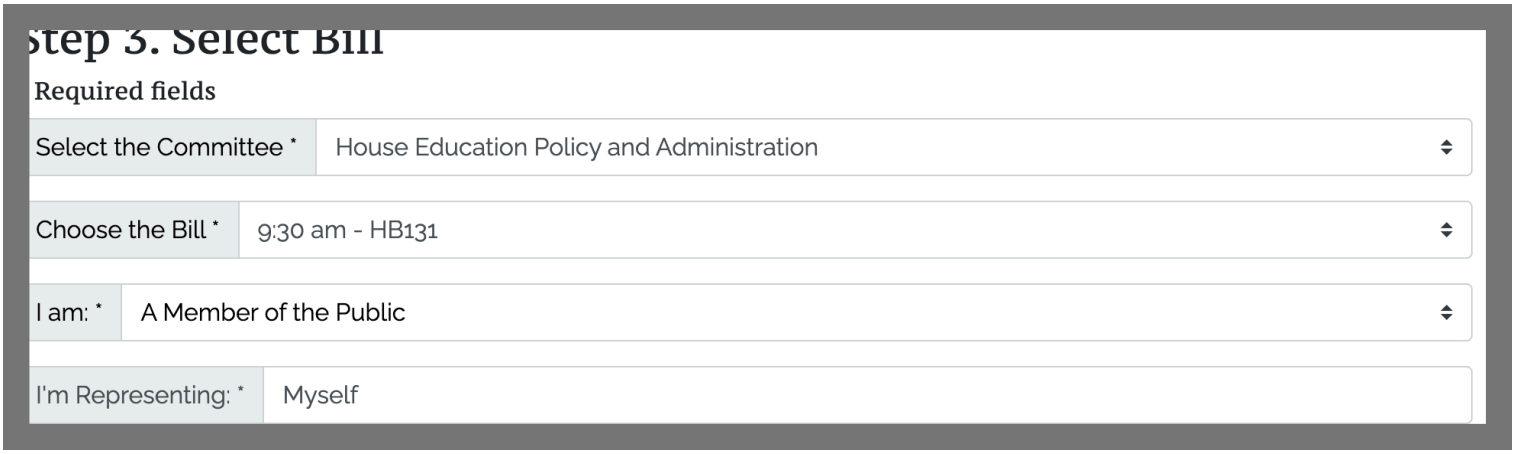
You are required to fill out each part of this section.

Complete Step 2. by clicking on the date of the public hearing on the calendar



How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH House)

Complete Step 3. Select Bill by selecting the correct field for each drop down:



for the "I am:*" drop down, please select "A Member of the Public"

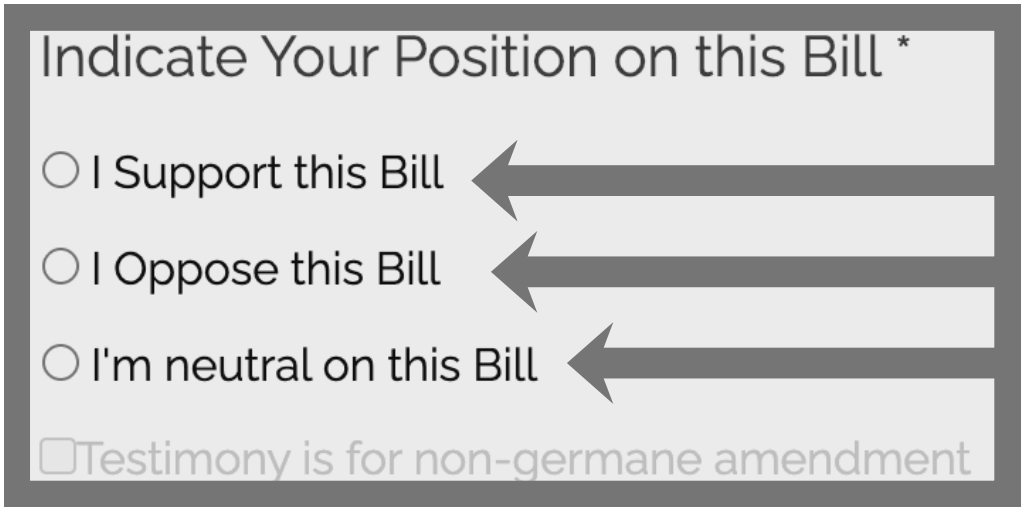


After selecting your options for the prior fields, the "I'm Representing" field will automatically populate "Myself"



How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH House)

Next, you will indicate your position on this bill:



Support = I agree with this bill (I want it to pass)

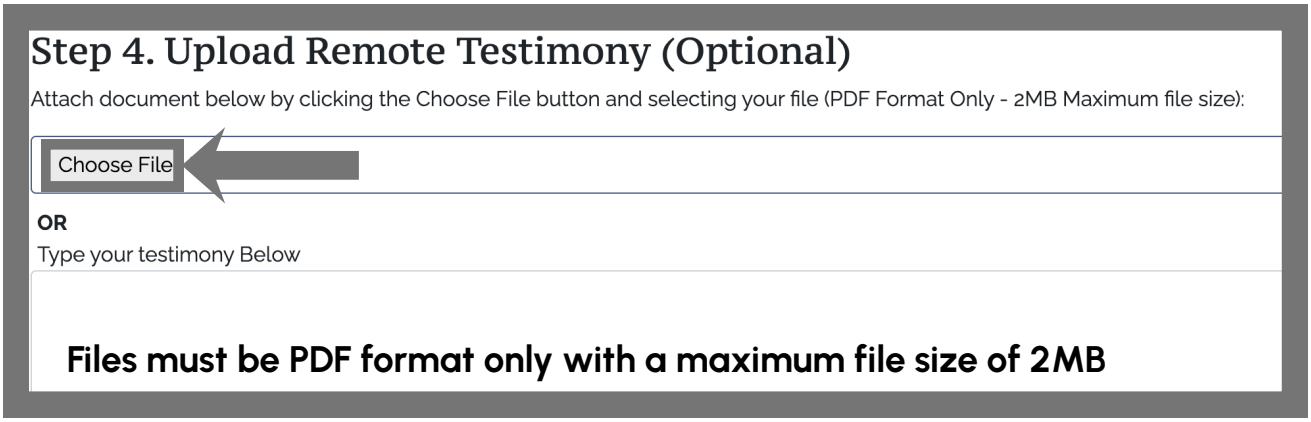
Oppose = I disagree with this bill (I do not want it to pass)

Neutral = I am not sure yet/I have mixed feelings

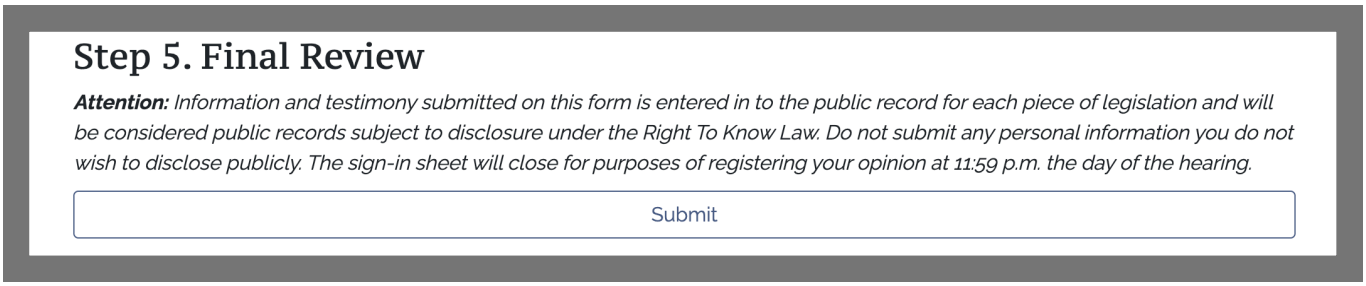
Testimony is for non-germane amendment = My comment is about a different version or amendment of this bill (this field is optional)

How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH House)

If you have testimony, you can upload it as a file or type your testimony below in Step 4. Upload Remote Testimony (Optional) - <u>this section is optional. you are not required to upload or type testimony</u>



When you are ready, hit 'Submit" in Step 5. Final Review to register your opinion

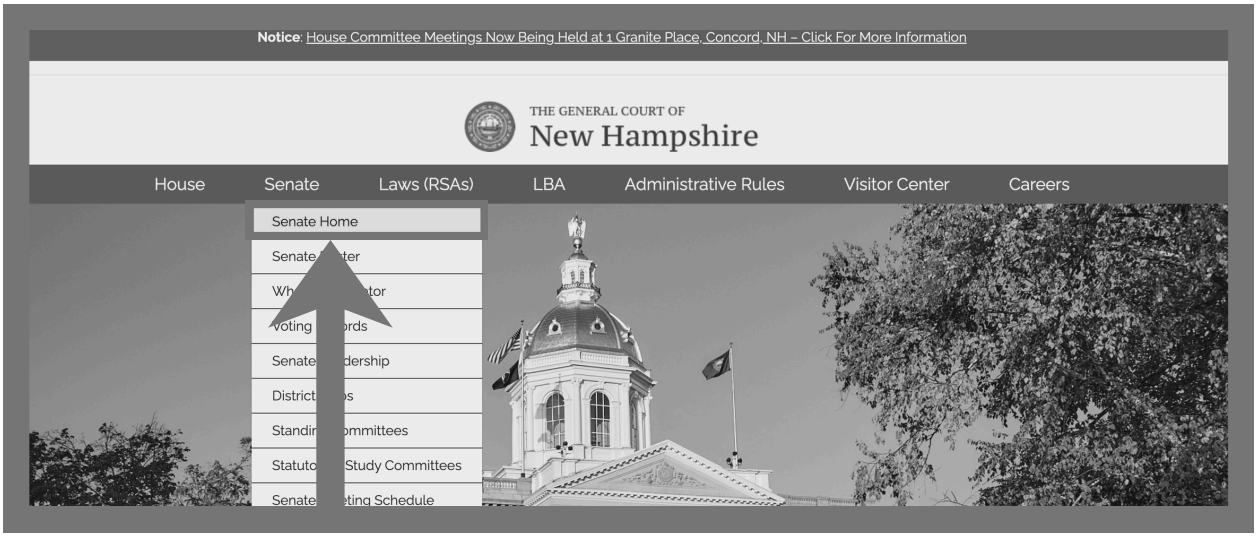


Please note: Anything you write on this form becomes part of the public record for this bill. This means your name, comments, and any other information you share can be seen by the public. Don't include personal details you want to keep private.

Attention: The sign-in sheet will close for purposes of registering your opinion at 11:59 p.m. the day of the hearing.

How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH Senate)

Go to the General Court Website homepage



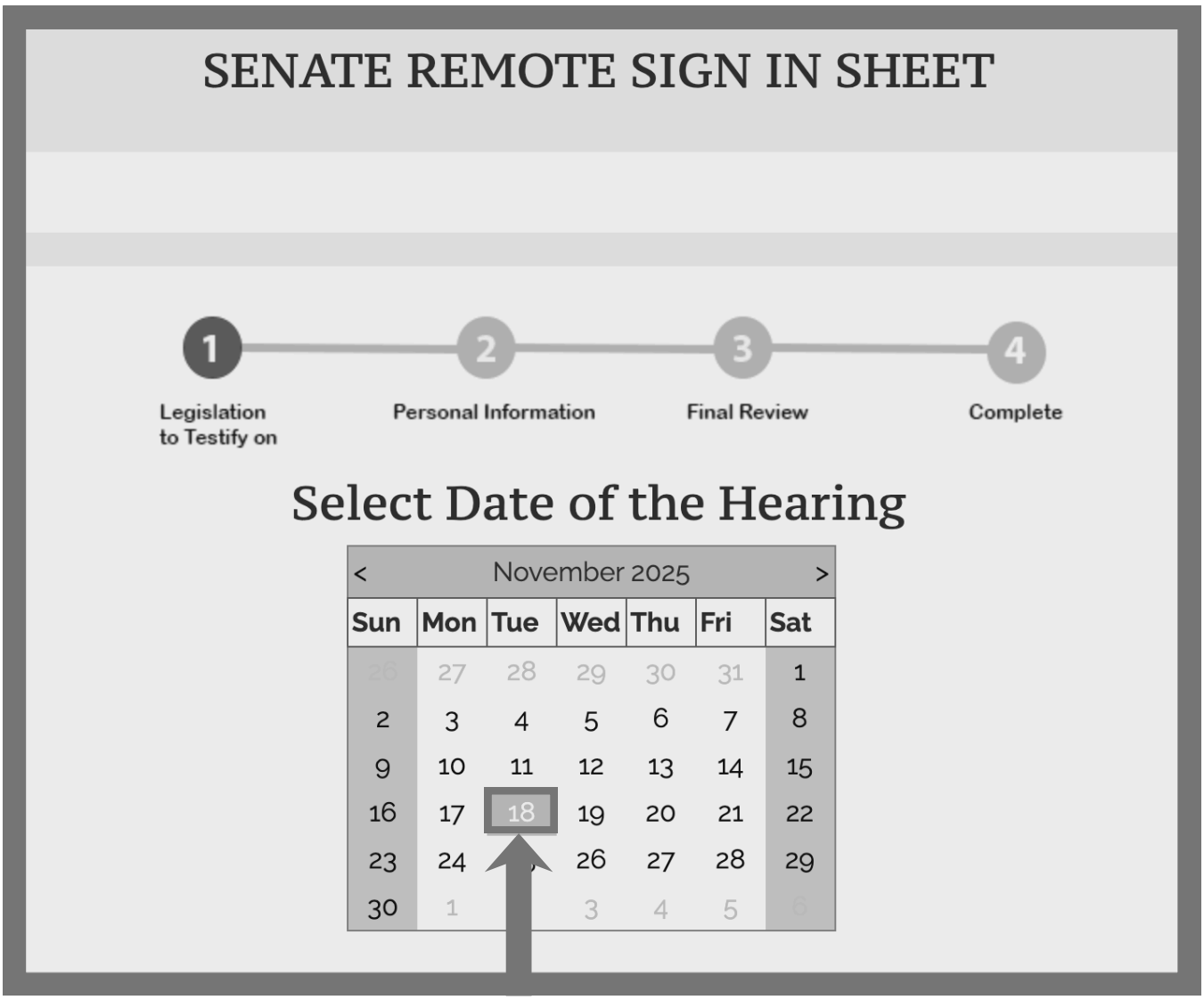
Hover your mouse over "Senate on the homepage and click "Senate Home" in the drop down to bring you to the NH Senate's site



Hover over "Committees" to access the drop down menu, where you will select "Remote Sign In"

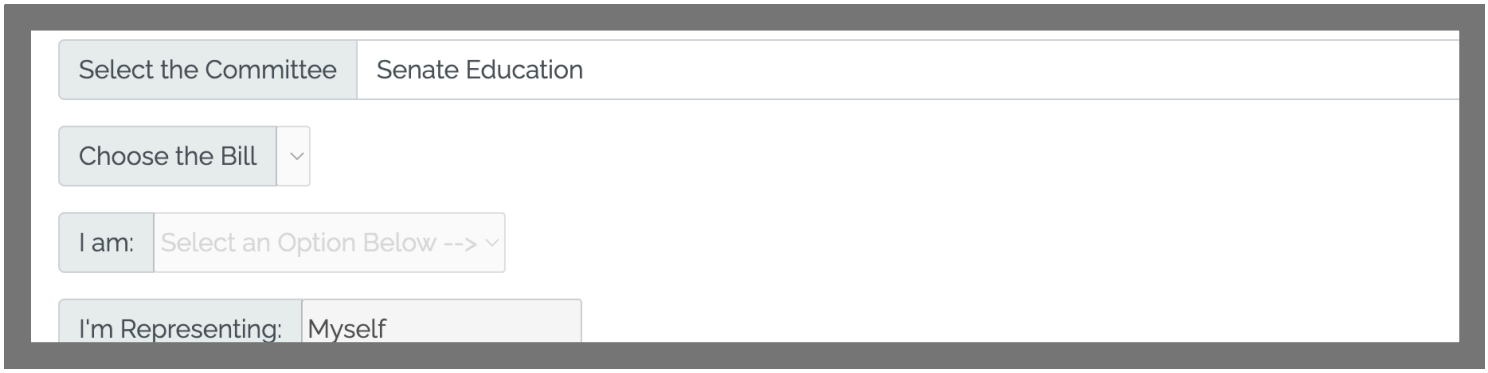
How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH Senate)

On the Senate Remote Sign In Sheet page, complete Step 1. Legislation to Testify On by selecting the date of the hearing



How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH Senate)

Continue with Step 1 by selecting the correct field for each drop down:



for the "I am:*" drop down, please select "A Member of the Public"

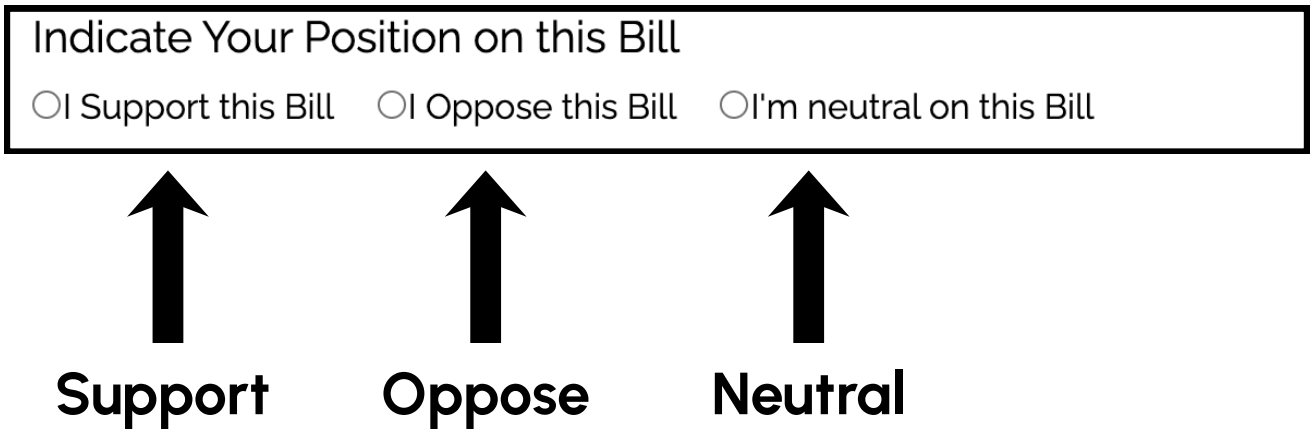


After selecting your options for the prior fields, the "I'm Representing" field will automatically populate "Myself"



How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH Senate)

Next, you will indicate your position on this bill:



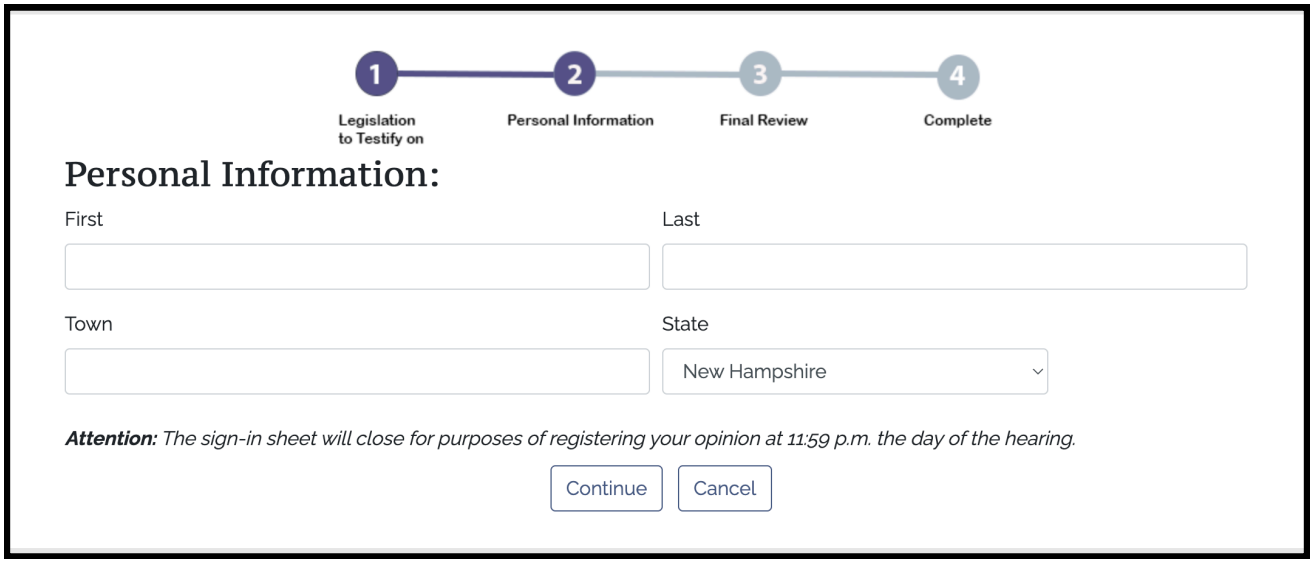
Support = I agree with this bill (I want it to pass)

Oppose = I disagree with this bill (I do not want it to pass)

Neutral = I am not sure yet/I have mixed feelings

How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH Senate)

After you indicate your position on the bill, click "Next." This will bring you to the next page where you can fill out your Personal Information:

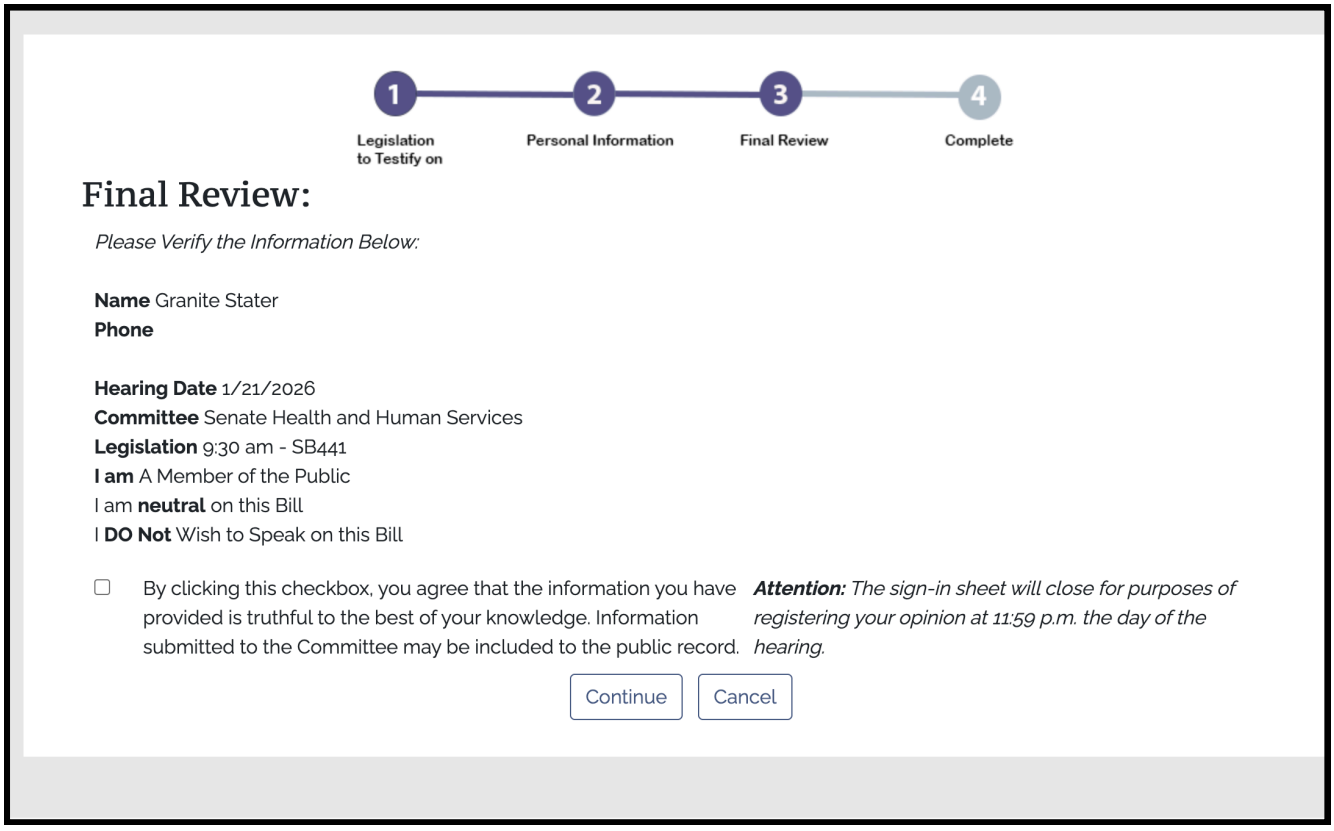


- **First Name**
- **Last Name**
- **Town**
- **State**

Review that all of the information is correct. Check the box that you agree that the information is truthful. Click "Continue." Attention: The sign-in sheet will close for purposes of registering your opinion at 11:59 p.m. the day of the hearing.

How to Submit Your Opinion Online (Bills in the NH Senate)

On the Final Review page, please verify the information below



By clicking this checkbox, you agree that the information you have provided is truthful to the best of your knowledge. Information submitted to the Committee may be included to the public record.

Content Warning

During public hearings and meetings, some speakers may share statements that are inflammatory, misleading, or harmful. In the past, remarks have included anti-Semitic, racist, ableist, and other bigoted language.

Testimony may also touch on deeply personal and sensitive topics, including sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, death, or suicide.

Your well-being matters. If you need a break, please step out for a few minutes or longer if you need it. You are always welcome to come back when you feel ready. If you need to leave early, that's completely okay, no questions asked.

Do's and Dont's During Public Hearings

Do's

- Hold signs outside the State House/meeting rooms
- Remain respectful and quiet/use inside voices (cell phone silenced in meeting rooms)
- Arrive early
- OPTIONAL: Sign in to show your opinion on the bill and/or to sign-up to testify in the meeting room
- If testifying:
    - Bring notes and/or written testimony
    - Keep testimony to under 3 minutes
    - Begin by thanking the committee
    - State your name and town/city
    - Try to speak clearly on why the bill matters to you
    - Thank the committee when you finish

Dont's

- Don't interrupt or react loud (Clap/Boo)
- Don't eat/drink (water is okay) in meeting rooms
- Don't hold signs inside meeting rooms
- Don't use offensive language or personal attacks
- Don't engage with opposition, as a situation can quickly escalate in unanticipated ways.

Quick Tips!

- If something sounds confusing, it's okay to ask your legislator or the committee clerk to explain it, that's their job.

- You don't need to know every term to participate. Showing up, sharing your story, and making your voice heard matters most.

- Dress comfortably and neatly – business casual or whatever makes you feel confident and authentic.

- If you get nervous, take a deep breath (if that aligns with your needs) and focus on your reason for being there. You're speaking for your family and community.

- It can be helpful to practice with a friend or record yourself once to time your remarks (2–3 minutes).

The Basics

- **Bill:** A bill is an idea for a new law or a change to an existing one. Anyone can suggest one — but only legislators can officially file it.

- **Committee**: A small group of lawmakers who study bills on specific topics (like education, housing, or the environment) and recommend what should happen next.

- **Hearing:** A public meeting where you can share your thoughts on a bill. You can attend in person, watch online, or submit written testimony.

- **Legislative Session**: The period (usually January through June) when lawmakers meet to discuss and vote on bills.

The Basics

- **General Court:** New Hampshire's official name for its legislature. It includes both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- **Constituent:** Someone who lives in a legislator's district – that's you!
- **Lobbyist:** A person who represents a group's interests to lawmakers.
- **Study Committee / Commission:** A small group formed to research a topic more deeply and make recommendations for future bills.
- **Fiscal Note:** A short explanation of how much a bill could cost or save the state.
- **Amendment:** A change to a bill. Lawmakers can add, delete, or rewrite sections before it passes.

How Bills Move

- **LSR (Legislative Service Request):** This is what a bill is called before it's officially written and given a number. Think of it as a "bill idea in progress."

- **Committee of Conference:** When the House and Senate disagree on a bill's wording, a small group from both sides meets to find a compromise.

- **Crossover:** The point in the year when bills that started in the House go to the Senate, and vice versa.

- **Executive Session**: A private meeting where a committee decides whether to recommend that a bill should pass or fail. (The public can usually attend but not speak.)

How Bills Move

- **OTP ("Ought to Pass"):** Committee or House members recommend the bill should pass.
- **ITL ("Inexpedient to Legislate"):** They recommend the bill should not pass.
- **Retained:** When a House committee decides to hold onto a bill for more work instead of voting on it right away. Retained bills usually come back the next year for another review.
- **Re-referred:** When the Senate sends a bill back to the same committee for more study or changes. Think of it like a "do-over" to improve it before the next session.

Votes & Actions

- **Roll Call Vote:** Each legislator's name is called and their "yes" or "no" vote is recorded publicly.
- **Division Vote:** A quick count of raised hands, no names recorded.
- **Voice Vote:** A quick vote where members say "aye" or "nay." The loudest side wins.
- **Lay on the Table:** The bill is set aside for now, possibly to return later.
- **Concur / Non-Concur:** If one chamber (House or Senate) agrees with the other's version of a bill, they "concur." If they don't, they "non-concur."
- **Special Order:** When a bill is scheduled for discussion at a specific time and date.

Votes & Actions

- **Veto:** When the Governor rejects a bill that passed both the House and Senate. Lawmakers can still override a veto with a two-thirds vote.
- **Veto Override:** If lawmakers vote again to overturn the Governor's veto. It takes a two-thirds majority in both chambers to succeed.
- **Consent Calendar:** A group of noncontroversial bills that are passed together without debate
- **Enrolled Bill:** A bill that has passed both chambers and is being sent to the Governor for signature.
- **Effective Date:** When a new law officially takes effect — often 60 or 90 days after it's signed.

Participation Terms

- **Testimony:** Your chance to share your story or opinion about a bill, in person, by email, or online.

- **Public Record:** Anything you submit to the legislature (like testimony or sign-ins) becomes part of the permanent record. Anyone can read it online.

- **CACR (Constitutional Amendment):** A proposed change to the NH Constitution. If it passes both chambers by a three-fifths vote, it goes directly to voters on the ballot. Once it's on the ballot, a CACR needs a two-thirds (⅔) majority of all voters who answer the question to say "Yes" in order to change the Constitution If fewer than two-thirds vote yes, the amendment fails, even if more people voted yes than no.

Stay Connected

You showed up, now stay in the loop! Advocacy is stronger when we do it together, and there are so many ways to keep showing up: join our list, share your story, or lend your time to future events. However you stay involved, you're part of the movement for change.

Sign up here for the latest action alerts straight to your email inbox

Get text alerts delivered straight to your fingertips

On Facebook? We have an online community for our Granite State members – **join here!**

Questions? Reach out to our NH Campaign Manager, Alyssa, at alyssa@momsrising.org

Thank you!

We're so glad you've taken the time to explore the MomsRising NH Leiglsature Toolkit!

Every time a parent, caregiver, or community member learns how to speak up, our democracy grows stronger.

This guide is a living resource, and we'd love to hear how it's working for you. If you notice something we could make clearer, have an idea to add, or want to share how you've used this toolkit, please reach out.

Your insight helps us make it better for everyone.

📬 **Share feedback or suggestions:**
Email Alyssa at alyssa@momsrising.org

We review all feedback carefully and update resources as needed, though changes and edits are made at our team's discretion.

With gratitude and solidarity,
The MomsRising NH Team

Glossary of Terms

Introducing a Bill

- **LSR-** Legislative Service Request
- **OLS-** Office of Legislative Services
- **Prime Sponsor-** the lead State Representative or Senator who proposes the legislation
- **Co-Sponsor-** other Representatives or Senators who indiccate support for the legislation as introduced

Public Hearing

- **LOB -** Legislative Office Building
- **Fiscal Note (FN) -** a cost estimate attached to a bill to indicate its fiscal impact
- **Executive Session-** a convening of a committee to discuss and make a recommendation on the bill
- **OTP - Ought to Pass or OTP/A -** Ought to Pass as Amended
- **ITL -** Inexpedient to Legislate
- **IS -** Interim Study
- **Re-Refer to Committee -** a recommendation used at times by Senate Committees in the first year of the legislative session

Floor Action

- **Parlimentary Inquiry (PI)-** a request for information from the presiding officer regarding procedure
- **Point of Order-** a question raised by a member when there is doubt regarding procedure or a statement
- **Lay on the Table (LOT)**- a non-debatable motion to set aside a bill until further action is desired

Glossary of Terms

Floor Action (continued)

- **Consent Calendar (CC)-** a list of bills that is considered noncontroversial measures
- **Division Vote (DIV)-** a vote on an issue counted by the individual votes but not individual names
- **Roll Call (RC)-** a recorded vote by name

Referral to the Other Legislative Body

- **Crossover-** a date during the legislative year when bills introduced in the House move to the Senate and bills introduced in the Senate Move to the House
- **HJ-/HC-** House Journal/House Calendar
- **SJ-/SC-** Senate Journal/Senate Calendar
- **Concur, Non-Concur, Non-Concur with Committee of Conference-** Options of the originating legislative body if original bill is amended
- **Committee of Conference** - a small group of legislators, usually 4 House and 3 Senate members, selected by their respective officers and charged with the reconciling of differences on the content of a bill that has passed both chambers

To the Governor

- **Enrolled-** Action taken by the Office of Legislative Services once a bill passes both Houses or comes out of Committee of Conference. The bill is sent to the Secretary of State who delivers it to the Governor.

Glossary of Terms

To the Governor (continued)

- **Veto-** The return of a bill to the Legislature by the Governor without an approving signature. The Legislature may override a veto with a 2/3 vote.
- **Signing Ceremony-** a celebratory gathering of the Governor signing a bill into law

Citizen Participation

- **Testimony-** oral and/or written support or opposition for a bill provided at the public hearing
- **CACR-** a Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution is a proposed constitutional change requiring 3/5 margin of the entire membership of each chamber. CACRs pass directly to the voters for ratification by a 2/3 margin at the next general election.

Alphabetical

- **CACR–** A constitutional amendment concurrent resolution is a proposed constitutional change requiring a 3/5 margin of the entire membership of each chamber. CACRs pass directly to the voters for ratification by a 2/3 margin at the next general election.
- **Committee of Conference–** A small group of legislators, usually 4 House and 3 Senate members, selected by their respective officers and charged with reconciling differences on the content of a bill that has passed both chambers.
- **Concur, Non-concur, Non-Concur with Committee of Conference–** Options of the originating legislative body if the original bill is amended.

Glossary of Terms

Alphabetical (continued)

- **Consent Calendar (CC)–** A list of bills that are considered noncontroversial measures.
- **Co-sponsor–** Other representatives or senators who indicate support for the legislation as introduced.
- **Crossover–** A date during the legislative year when bills introduced in the House move to the Senate and bills introduced in the Senate move to the House.
- **Division vote (DIV)–** A vote on an issue counted by individual votes but not individual names.
- **Enrolled–** Action taken by the Office of Legislative Services once a bill passes both houses or comes out of committee of conference. The bill is sent to the Secretary of State who delivers it to the Governor.
- **Executive session–** A convening of a committee to discuss and make a recommendation on the bill.
- **Fiscal note–** A cost estimate attached to a bill to indicate its fiscal impact.
- **HJ-/HC–** House Journal / House Calendar.
- **IS–** Interim study.
- **ITL–** Inexpedient to legislate.
- **Lay on the table (LOT)-** a non-debatable motion to set aside a bill until further action is desired.
- **LOB–** Legislative Office Building.
- **LSR–** Legislative Service Request.
- **OLS–** Office of Legislative Services.
- **OTP–** Ought to pass, or OTP/A – Ought to pass as amended.
- **Parliamentary inquiry / PI–** A request for information from the presiding officer regarding procedure.

Glossary of Terms

Alphabetical (continued)

- **Point of order–** A question raised by a member when there is doubt regarding procedure or a statement.
- **Prime sponsor–** The lead state representative or senator who proposes the legislation.
- **Recall –**To summon a piece of legislation and return it to the body last acting upon it.
- **Re-refer to committee–** A recommendation used at times by Senate committees in the first year of the legislative session.
- **Roll call (RC)–** A recorded vote by name.
- **Signing ceremony–** A celebratory gathering of the Governor signing a bill into law.
- **SJ-/SC–** Senate Journal / Senate Calendar.
- **Special order–** A matter of legislative business set for a designated time and day.
- **Testimony–** Oral and/or written support or opposition for a bill provided at the public hearing.
- **Veto–** The return of a bill to the legislature by the Governor without an approving signature. The legislature may override a veto with a 2/3 vote.